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COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR TREATING LUPUS NEPHRITIS

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates generally to nucleic acids and polypeptides and more specifically to nucleic acids and polypeptides encoding polypeptides useful for detecting and treating lupus nephritis, as well as for identifying therapeutic agents for treating the same.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Lupus nephritis is an example of a "classical" auto-immune disease in which the patient's immune system attacks his/her own organs. It has been estimated that 45-75% of lupus patient's eventually suffer from some form or other of kidney damage. Lupus varies greatly in severity from mild cases requiring minimal intervention to those in which significant damage occurs to vital organs such as lungs, kidneys, heart and brain, and which ultimately can be fatal. Lupus is predominantly a female disease, with an approximate female to male ratio being 9:1. In North America, it is estimated to affect 1 in 500 female mainly between the age of 20 to 40 years.

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There is no known cure for lupus. Treatment is typically directed at controlling the symptoms with the hope of putting the disease into remission. Recently the antibiotic rapamycin has been demonstrated to be an effective therapy in treating lupus nephritis in a murine model of the disease.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention is based, in part, upon the discovery of a gene, named BFLP0169, whose expression is increased in kidney tissue in mice with lupus nephritis; however, the expression level of the gene does not decrease markedly in response to treatment with rapamycin. This expression profile indicates that the product of the BFLP0169 gene product interacts with rapamycin when this antibiotic is administered to ameliorate the symptoms of lupus nephritis. In the absence of rapamycin, the gene product is free to bring about the diseased state, including activation of genes required to bring about the diseased state response. In the presence of rapamycin, the BFLP0169 gene product is inactive and the disease state diminishes. Accordingly, the BFLP0169 protein is useful as a target for identifying agents that, like rapamycin, are useful in treating symptoms of lupus nephritis.

In one aspect, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid molecule that includes the sequence of a nucleotide sequence encoding a BFLP0169 gene product. In a preferred embodiment, the nucleotide sequence includes the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a fragment, homolog, analog or derivative thereof. The nucleic acid can include, *e.g.*, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide at least 70%, *e.g.*, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98%, or even 99% or more identical to a polypeptide that includes the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:2. The nucleic acid can be, *e.g.*, a genomic DNA fragment, or a cDNA molecule.

Also included in the invention is a vector containing one or more of the nucleic acids described herein, and a cell containing the vectors or nucleic acids described herein.

The invention is also directed to host cells transformed with a vector comprising any of the nucleic acid molecules described above.

In another aspect, the invention includes a pharmaceutical composition that includes a BFLP0169 nucleic acid and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

In a further aspect, the invention includes a substantially purified BFLP0169 polypeptide, *e.g.*, any of the BFLP0169 polypeptides encoded by a BFLP0169 nucleic acid, and fragments, homologs, analogs, and derivatives thereof. The invention also includes a pharmaceutical

composition that includes a BFLP0169 polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

In still a further aspect, the invention provides an antibody that binds specifically to a BFLP0169 polypeptide. The antibody can be, *e.g.*, a monoclonal or polyclonal antibody, and fragments, homologs, analogs, and derivatives thereof. The invention also includes a pharmaceutical composition including BFLP0169 antibody and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent. The invention is also directed to isolated antibodies that bind to an epitope on a polypeptide encoded by any of the nucleic acid molecules described above.

The invention also includes kits comprising in one or more containers one or more of a compound that is a BFLP0169 nucleic acid, a BFLP0169 polypeptide and/or an antibody to a BFLP0169 polypeptide. The kit is preferably provided with instructions for use. If desired, the compounds in the kits are provided along with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

The invention further provides a method for producing a BFLP0169 polypeptide by providing a cell containing a BFLP0169 nucleic acid, *e.g.*, a vector that includes a BFLP0169 nucleic acid, and culturing the cell under conditions sufficient to express the BFLP0169 polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid. The expressed BFLP0169 polypeptide is then recovered from the cell. Preferably, the cell produces little or no endogenous BFLP0169 polypeptide. The cell can be, *e.g.*, a prokaryotic cell or eukaryotic cell.

The invention is also directed to methods of identifying a BFLP0169 polypeptide or nucleic acid in a sample by contacting the sample with a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide or nucleic acid, and detecting complex formation, if present.

The invention further provides methods of identifying a compound that modulates the activity of a BFLP0169 polypeptide by contacting a BFLP0169 polypeptide with a compound and determining whether the BFLP0169 polypeptide activity is modified.

The invention is also directed to compounds that modulate BFLP0169 polypeptide activity identified by contacting a BFLP0169 polypeptide with the compound and determining whether the compound modifies activity of the BFLP0169 polypeptide, binds to the BFLP0169 polypeptide, or binds to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BFLP0169 polypeptide.

5 In another aspect, the invention provides a method of determining the presence of or predisposition of a BFLP0169 -associated disorder in a subject. The method includes providing a sample from the subject and measuring the amount of BFLP0169 polypeptide in the subject sample. The amount of BFLP0169 polypeptide in the subject sample is then compared to the amount of BFLP0169 polypeptide in a control sample. An alteration in the amount of BFLP0169 polypeptide in the subject protein sample relative to the amount of BFLP0169 polypeptide in the control protein sample indicates the subject has a tissue proliferation-associated condition. A control sample is preferably taken from a matched individual, *i.e.*, an individual of similar age, sex, or other general condition but who is not suspected of having a tissue proliferation-associated condition. Alternatively, the control sample may be taken from the subject at a time when the subject is not suspected of having a tissue proliferation-associated disorder. In some embodiments, the BFLP0169 is detected using a BFLP0169 antibody.

15 In a further aspect, the invention provides a method of determining the presence of or predisposition of a BFLP0169 -associated disorder in a subject. The method includes providing a nucleic acid sample, *e.g.*, RNA or DNA, or both, from the subject and measuring the amount of the BFLP0169 nucleic acid in the subject nucleic acid sample. The amount of BFLP0169 nucleic acid sample in the subject nucleic acid is then compared to the amount of a BFLP0169 nucleic acid in a control sample. An alteration in the amount of BFLP0169 nucleic acid in the sample relative to the amount of BFLP0169 in the control sample indicates the subject has a tissue proliferation-associated disorder.

25 In a still further aspect, the invention provides a method of treating or preventing or delaying a BFLP0169 -associated disorder. The method includes administering to a subject in which such treatment or prevention or delay is desired a BFLP0169 nucleic acid, a BFLP0169 polypeptide, or a BFLP0169 antibody in an amount sufficient to treat, prevent, or delay a tissue proliferation-associated disorder in the subject. Examples of such disorders include rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis.

Unless otherwise defined, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs. Although methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be

used in the practice or testing of the present invention, suitable methods and materials are described below. All publications, patent applications, patents, and other references mentioned herein are incorporated by reference in their entirety. In the case of conflict, the present specification, including definitions, will control. In addition, the materials, methods, and examples are illustrative only and not intended to be limiting.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed description and claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a histogram showing relative levels of gene expression in the mouse ortholog of the human BFLP0169 gene in NZB x NZWF1 kidneys before, during, and after rapamycin treatment, as well as in various control mouse strains and conditions.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The BFLP0169 nucleic acid sequences disclosed herein were identified based on changes in expression of the gene in kidneys of a lupus nephritis model mouse as compared to expression of the gene in kidneys from non non-diseased mice. More particularly, the gene is expressed at relatively low levels in young mice and mice that do not show symptoms of lupus nephritis. Gene expression is elevated in mice with lupus nephritis, and is lower in mice that have been successfully treated with rapamycin or anti-B7 antibodies. The observation that expression levels return to normal when kidney function is normal indicates that elevated levels are related to, and diagnostic of, disease progression. Blocking the function of these genes may inhibit or retard disease progression. Expression levels can also be used to assess and compare effectiveness of various therapeutic interventions.

Accordingly, the BFLP0169 nucleic acid sequences are useful for detecting the presence of lupus nephritis in a subject. Elevated levels of BLP0169 transcripts or polypeptides relative to levels in control samples indicate the presence of lupus nephritis in the subject. BFLP1069 nucleic acid sequences can also be used to monitor the effectiveness of treatments for lupus

nephritis: a decrease in expression of BFLP0169 genes relative to levels in diseased treatments demonstrates that the treatment is effective.

The BFLP0169 sequences can additionally be used to identify therapeutic agents for treating or preventing lupus nephritis in a subject. For example, a BFLP0169 polypeptide can be contacted with a test agent. Binding of the BFLP0169 polypeptide to the test agent reveals that the test agent modulates BFLP0169 activity. The BLP0169-binding agent can be further tested to determine if it acts to promote or inhibit lupus symptoms in a test organism (e.g., a NZB X NZW mouse). Inhibition of lupus symptoms reveals that the agent is useful for treating or preventing lupus nephritis, or symptoms associated with lupus nephritis. Additional utilities are disclosed herein.

A 5987 nucleotide sequence that includes a human BFLP0169 nucleic acid is shown in Table 1 (SEQ ID NO:1). The human sequence was identified as the human ortholog of a murine gene whose expression is increased in a NZB X NZW mouse with lupus nephritis-like symptoms.

Nucleotides 1-5259 of the sequence shown in Table 1 encode a polypeptide of 1753 amino acids, whose sequence is shown in Table 2 (SEQ ID NO:2).

Table 1

ATGATCAGAAAGAGCAAATTACCTCTGTTCTCTCATTTTGCAGGAGCAGTAGAGAAGTGTGGACTATTCTGCTTGGAA
AGGTCAGCTCTGAGAGAGCTGAGTCAGATTGAGGCAGAACTGAATAAACATTGGCGGCCGATTGTTAGAGGGGCTTTCT
TACTACAAACCTCCCAGTCCAAGTTCAGCTGAAAAAGTGAAAGCTAATAAAGATGTAGCTTCACCATTGAAGGAACTG
GGTTTAAGAAATCAGCAAGTTTTTGGGTCTTGATGAAGAACAGAGTGTGCAGTTACTCCAGTGTACCTGCAAGAGGAC
TACAGGGGTACTCGGGACTCAGTAAAGACAGTACTGCAAGATGAGAGGCAGAGCCAGGCCCTTAATCCTGAAGATTGCA
GATTATTATTATGAAGAAAGAACCCTGTATTCTTCGTTGTGCTTTACACCTTCTCACTTACTTCCAAGATGAAAGACAC
CCCTATAGGGTTGAATATGCAGACTGTGTTGATAAATTGGAGAAGGAACTAGTTTCAAATACAGACAGCAGTTCGAA
GAGCTTTATAAACTGAAGCACCACTTGGGAGACACATGGAATCTCATGACAGAGCGCCAAGTGTCTCGCTGGTTT
GTTCACTGCTTCGGGAACAGTCCATGCTGCTAGAAAATTATTTTCCTTTATGATGCTACTTTGAGATGGCACCAGT
GACTTACTTGTATTAAACCAAGATGTTTAAAGAGCAAGGATTTGGTAGTAGGCAGACCAATAGGCACCTGGTGGATGAG
ACTATGGATCCTTTTGTAGATCGGATTTGGCTACTTCAGTGCCCTCATCTGGTGGAGGGCATGGATATCGAGTCTTTG
CATAAGTGTGCTTTGGATGACAGAAGAGAACTGCATCAGTTTGGCGAGGATGGGCTTATTTGTCAGGATATGGACTGT
TTAATGTTGACCTTTGGGGACATTCCACATCATGCCCCAGTCTTTTGGCTTGGGCTCTCTCCGTCACACTCTGAAC
CCAGAAGAGACAAGCAGTGTGGTCCGGAAGATAGGTGGCAGCCATCCAGCTGAATGTGTTTTCAGTACTTGACCCGA
TTGCTCCAGTCCCTTGCCAGTGGGGGAAATGATGACACCAGCAGTGCATGCATGTGTGTCTATGGACTGCTCTCT
TTCGTTCTGACCTCGTTGGAGCTGCACACCCTGGGCAATCAGCAGGATATAATTGATACAGCATGTGAAGTATTGGCC
GACCTTCTCTTCCGGAAGTGTCTGGGGAACAGAGCCTTCTGGCTTGGGATCATTCTGGACAGTGTGTGTGGA
ATGTTTCCCCACCTTCTCTCCCCACTCTGCAACTGCTCCGAGCCCTGGTATCAGGGAAGTCCACAGCCAAAAGGTG
TATAGCTTCTTGGATAAGATGTCTTCTACAACTGAATTTATAAACACAAAGCCTCATGATGTGATCTCCCATGAAGAT
GGAACCTTTTGGCGGAGACAAACCCAACTCCTTTATCCCCCTTGGGGGTCAAACCAACCTTCGCATACCTCAAGGC
ACTGTGGGCCAAGTAATGTTGGATGATAGGGCATACTGTGACGCTGGGAATACTCTATAGCAGCTGGACCTCTTT
ACCTGCGAGATTGAAATGTTGCTTCATGTTGTTCAACTGCAGATGTGATTCAGCACTGCCAGCGAGTCAAACCCATC
ATTGATCTCGTCCATAAGGTATCAGTACAGACCTGTGATAGCAGACTGTCTCTGCCCATCACATCTCGCATCTAC
ATGCTGCTGCAGCGGTTAACGACAGTGATCTCCCCACCTGTGGATGTCATTGCTTCTGTGTCAACTGCTTAACTGTT

TTGGCTGCCCGCAATCCAGCAAAGGCTGGAAGTCTGCTGATCTTCGTCACACAGGTTTTTTTACCATTGTGGCCCATCTCTGTC
 TCCAGCCTGAGTCAGATGATTAGTGCAGGAAGGGATGAATGCTGGAGGGTACGGAACCTCTTGATGAACAGTGAACAG
 CCTCAGGGCGAGTATGGGGTTACTATTGCCTTTCTGCGCTTGATCACCACCTTGTCAAGGGGCAACTTGGTAGTACC
 CAGAGCCAAGGACTTGTACCCTGTGTAATGTTTGTGCTGAAGGAGATGCTTCCCAGCTACCATAAGTGGCGCTACAAAC
 5 TCTCATGGAGTGAGGGAACAGATTGGTTGCCATGATCTGGAGCTGATTGATGCGATACTGAACCTGTGCCACGAGACA
 GACCTGCACAGCAGTCATACTCCCAGCCTGCAGTTTCTCTGCATCTGCAGCCTGGCATACACAGAAGCAGGACAGACA
 GTTATCAATATCATGGGCATTGGCGTGGACACCAATTGACATGGTGATGGCTGCTCAGCCTCGAAGTGATGGGGCAGAG
 GGCCAGGGGCGAGGGCCAGCTGCTGATCAAGACAGTGAACCTGGCATTCTCCGTACCAACAATGTTATTTCGGCTGAAA
 CCTCTTCTAATGTGGTGTCCTCCCTGGAAACAGGCTCTCTCACAACATGGTGCTCATGGAAACAACCTCATTTGCTGTT
 10 CTAGCCAAATACATCTACCACAAACATGACCTGCTTTGGCCAGCTCTTGGCATTGAGCTGCTGAAACGCTGCGCCACG
 GTGGCCCAATGTGATGATGCTTGTCTGGGCAATGATGCGGCTGCCATTGCTGATGCTTCTGACCCGATTGTCAG
 AGCAAAATGAGGACATGCGCATCAAAGTCATGATTCTAGAGTTCTCTACTGTTGTCAGTAGAGACCCAGCCAGGCTCT
 ATCGAAGCTGTTTCTGAACCTGGAGTTAAGGATGGCAGTATGCTATGATGAAGGTTTCAATAGACAGTCATTAAAGGATACA
 15 CTCCATGTCAGTGTGAGCTGATTGATTCCCAACAGCAAGATGCTGATGCTGGTGGCCACCCCTGCTGCATCGTGGCCG
 ATTGCTTTTTTGTGATGCTCTGTGCGCAGGATCGGAGGGACAGTGCCATGCTGGTCTCCGAACCAAAACCAAGTTTGG
 GAAAATTTAACCAGTCCGCTGTTTGGAAACCTTTCTCTCTCCCTCTGAAACATCAGAGCCAGCATCTCTGGAACCTGT
 GCTCTAATCATGAAGATAATTGCTTGGAGATATACCTATGATGAAGGTTTCAATAGACAGTCATTAAAGGATACA
 CTGAAGAAATTTTCCATCGAGAAACGCTTTGCTTACTGGTCAGGGTATGTCAGTCAATTGGCAGTTTCACGTGGAGCAA
 20 ACAGAAGGCAGCAGCTGCACCTCCTTGTAGAGTACCAGATGCTGGTGTCCGCTGGAGGATGCTTCTCATATTGCC
 ACCACTCATGCAGATATAATGCACCTGACTGACTCTGTGGTGCGTCCGAGCTCTTCTTTCAGCTGCTTGTGATGGAACC
 AAAGCATTACTCTTAGTTCCAGCCTCAGTGAAGTGCCTTGCCTTGGCTCCATGAAGTGCATCTGCTGCTTATCTCTC
 CTCCGGCAGTGAAGAGAGAGTTAGGTTCTGTGGATGAAATCCTTGGACCTTTCAGCGAGATCTTGGAGGGAGTGCTG
 CAGGCCGACCAGCAACTCATGAGAGAAGACCAAGGCCAAGGTGTTCTCAGCATTATCACAGTGTGCAAAATGAAGGAG
 25 ATGAAGTAAGTGACATCCCCCAGTACTCCAGCTGGTGCTGAATGCTGTGAGACCTTCAAGAGGAAGTGATGCAAC
 CTCTTCGACCAGACCCGCCACAGTCTGGCATTAGGCTAGGCTGCCACAGAGGACAAGGACAGCATGGAGACTGACGACTGT
 TCTCGGTCCCGGCACAGGGACAGCGTGATGGGGTGTGTGCTCTGGCCTGCACCTGGCCAAGGAGCTGTGTGAGGTA
 GACGAGGATGGTGACTCTGGCTGCAGGTAACCCGACAGGCTCCCCATCTTACCACCTCTTCCACCTCTAGAGGTG
 AGCCTTCGCATGAAGCAGAACCTGCATTTCATGAGGCCACATGTCATCTGCTCTCACCTGGCTCGCACTCAGCAG
 30 GGAGCCACAGCAGTGGCTGGAGCTGGCATCACCCAGAGCATTGTTTGGCCCCCTCTGAGTGTGTACCAGCTGAGCACC
 AACGGCACAGCACAGACACCTAGTGCTCTCGGAAGTCCCTGGATGCCCCCTCTTGGCCAGGAGTCTACCGCTGTCC
 ATGTCCCTGTAGGAGCAGTGTCTAAACTCTGCGCTACAACCTCTGCTGAGGCCCCGGACTTTCGTGGGTGTCCAC
 CAGGAGCGGACCTTACAGTGCCCTCAACGCAGTGAGGACAGTGACAGTCTGGCTGCTGGAGGAGGCGGACACAC
 GTGGGTTTTATCTGCAGCTCTCTAACTTCATGAAGGAGTGGCACTTCCACCTGCCTCAGCTCATGCGTGATATCCAG
 35 GTCAACCTGGGTTACTTGTGCCAGGCATGTACCTCTCTCTGCACAGTCAAGAGATGCTGCAGCATTACTTACAGAAC
 AAAAAATGGGGATGGCTTCCCTCAGCTGTTGCCCGCAGGAGTCCAGAGGCCACCGTCTGCTGCTTCTGCTGCCCCCTCC
 TCCTCAAAGCAGCCCGCTGCTGACACAGAGGCATCAGAGCAGCAGGCCCTTGACACAGTCCAGTATGGCCTTCTCAAG
 ATCCTCAGCAAGACGCTGCGCAGCCCTGCGCCACTTCACCCAGATGCTGCGCAGATTCTGCTGGATCAGTCCCTGGAC
 CTGCTGAATACAACCTCTGTTTGGCCCTGAGCTTTACCATTCCCACTTTGACTCCGAGTGGCCCCCTCTCTCGGG
 40 ACCCTTCTGGCCACAGTGAATGTGGCCCTCAACATGCTTGGAGAGCTGGACAAGAAAAAGGAGGCCCTCACCAGGCA
 GTGGGGCTCAGCACACAGGCAGAAGGGACAGGACGTTAAAGTCCCTCTGATGTTTACCATGGAATACTGCTTCTAC
 CTGCTCATCTCTCAGGCGATGCGGTACCTTAGGGACCCGGCTGTGCACCCCGGGACAACAGCGGATGAAGCAGGAG
 CTCAGCTCTGAGTTGAGCAGCTGTCTCAGCTCTCTGCGCTACTTCCGCGGGGAGCCCCAGCTCCCTTGGCACT
 GGTGTCTCCCTCGCCGAGGGCAAGTCCACCTCTCTCTCAAAGCCAGCCCTGAGAGTCAGGAGCCTCTGATCCAG
 45 TTGGTGACGCGTTTGTCCGGCATATGCAAGATAGGGCAGTGTCTTCTGCCCCACCTACCCCTCTCCACAGCCTAC
 ACTGCACCTTGGCTGGCAGGGGTGCTGCTGGCTGCTAGGGCTATACAATGGAGGGCACCCTCTGTACCCCTCTCC
 GGAGTAGCCACGACTCCAGCCACCACTGACGTTATTTTATACATAGATGAAGAGGTCAACAGCAGGCATGGGGA
 GCCGAGTCTTCTGTGCTCAGGTCCTCAGCTGCAGACGCCCTTAGAGGAACTTTCTTCTTCCAGCATTCCCCAC
 AGCACTGCGGGCAGGGGAGAGGGCGCAGCCAGCAGAGGGCTCTATGCAGGGTTTCAAACCTGTTTTCCACACTCT
 50 GTCTTTGCAAGTTTGGTAATTCGTGGTCTATTTATACAGATATTAATACTTGTTTATAGACAGCTGTGTGATGTTT
 AACTTCAAAGCCAGGGATGACAACGTGGCTCTCAGAACCCTAGAAAACTCCCTGGCCAGGCGCTGGGAGTGGGGCT
 GCAGCTCGGGGGAAGGCAGGTAAGTGTGATGGATGGCTAGTTTACCAGCATCTCTCTATCTCTGCTTGGGCTGAGGGT
 TTGGCTGGGTGGGCGCTGTGAGATATTCCCTTCCCTTGGCTGCGCTGGTCTGTCTTGAACCTGCTTTTATTGGCCC
 AGTGGGCTGAGCTCATCCCTGGGTGAGCCTTTCTTGAAGCTCTGTGCTTCTTATTTAT (SEQ ID NO:1)

55 **Table 2**

MIRKSKITSVLSFCRSSRELWITILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSYKPPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
 GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLLQCYLQEDYRGTRDSVKTVLQDERQSALILKIADYEEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH

5 PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQQFEELYKTEAPTWETHGNLMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPS
 DLLVLTKMFKEQGFGSRQTNRLVDETMDFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDC
 LMLTFGDI PHHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIGGTAIQLNVFQYLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
 FVLTSLELHTLGNQQDIIIDTACEVLADPSLPELFWGTEPTSGLGIIILDSVCGMFPHLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
 10 YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEGDTLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVRWEYSYSSWTLF
 TCEIEMLLHVSTADVIQHCQRVKPIIDLHVHVI STDLSIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIA SCVNCLTV
 LAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQMSAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGVTTIAFLRLITTLVKGQLGST
 QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMPLSYHKWRYNSHGVRQIGCLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
 VINIMGIGVDTIDMVMAAQPRSDGAEQGQGGQLLIKTVKLAFSVTNNVIRLKPPSNVVSPLAQALSQHGAGNNLIIV
 15 LAKYIYHKHDPALPRLAIQLLKRLATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAAIRDAFLTRLQSKI EDMRIKVMILEFLTVA VETQPL
 IELFLNLEVKGSDGSKEFSLGMWSCLHAVLELIDSQQQDRYWCPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKPFW
 ENLTSPLFGTLPSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIIICLEIYYVVKGS LDQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAYWSGYVKS LAVHVAE
 TEGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLI IATTHADIMHLTDSVVRRLFLDVLDTGKALLVPASVNCRLRSGMKCTLLIL
 LRQWKRELGSVDEILGPLTEILEGVLQADQLMEKTKAKVFSAFITVLQMKEMKVS DI PQYSQVLNV CETLQEEVIA
 20 LFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCVLGLHLAKELCEVEDGDSWLQVTRRLPILPTLLTTLEV
 SLRMKQNLHFTEATLHLLTLARTQQGATAVAGAGITQSICLPLLSVYQLSTNGTAQTPSASRKS LDAPS WPGVYRLS
 MSLMEQLLKTLYNLFPEALDFVGVHQERTLQCLNAVTVQSLACLEADHTVGFILQLSNFMKEWHFHL PQLMRDIQ
 VNLGYLCQACTSLLHSRKMLQHYLQNKGDGLPSAVAQVRPPSAASAAPSSSKQPAADTEASEQQALHTVQYGLLK
 ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQIILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDEVAPSF GTLLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQA
 VGLSTQAEGTRTLKSLLMFTMENC FYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSSSELSTLLSSLSRYFRRGAPSSPAT
 GVLPS PQGKSTSLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:2)

BFLP0169-like nucleic acids and polypeptides of the invention (including those shown in Table 1) are referred to herein as "BFLP0169" nucleic acids and polypeptides.

A BFLP0169 nucleic acid, and the encoded polypeptide, according to the invention are useful in a variety of applications and contexts.

BFLP0169 shows homology to other proteins as shown in the BLAST results described in Table 3. KIAA0169, IMAGE: 3461492, and 3598686, and cDNA: FLJ21639 are all proteins encoded from partial reading frames (expressed sequence tags (ESTs)) found in genomic DNA.

Because BFLP0169 has homology to these proteins, it is also encoded from either an entire open reading frame, or part of a larger open reading frame (EST).

Table 3: Blast Results for BFLP0169

Gene Index/ Identifier	Protein/ Organism	Length (aa)	Identity (%)	Positives (%)	Expect
gi 1136397 dbj D79991.1	Homo sapiens mRNA for KIAA0169 protein, partial cds	1745	1635/1739 (94%)	1635/1739 (94%)	0.0
gi 22046118 ref X P_052725.6 (XM_052725)	similar to KIAA0169 protein [Homo sapiens]	1767	1635/1743 (93%)	1635/1743 (93%)	0.0
gi 23618434 ref X P_130085.2 (XM_130085)	similar to KIAA0169 protein [Homo sapiens]	1111	949/1111 (85%)	982/1111 (87%)	0.0


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5  SEQ ID NO:2      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
   gi|1136398|dbj|  LDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDCLMLTFGDI PHHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIG 350
   gi|22046118|ref| LDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDCLMLTFGDI PHHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIG 342
   gi|23618434|ref| LDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDCLMLTFGDI PHHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIG 360
   gi|13529308|gb|  -----
   gi|19343754|gb|  -----1
                                370      380      390      400      410      420
10  SEQ ID NO:2      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
   gi|1136398|dbj|  GTAIQLNVFQYLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLSFVLTSLELHTLGNQQDIIDT 410
   gi|22046118|ref| GTAIQLNVFQYLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLSFVLTSLELHTLGNQQDIIDT 402
   gi|23618434|ref| GTAIQLNVFQYLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLSFVLTSLELHTLGNQQDIIDT 420
   gi|13529308|gb|  -----1
   gi|19343754|gb|  -----1
                                430      440      450      460      470      480
20  SEQ ID NO:2      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
   gi|1136398|dbj|  ACEVLADPSPLELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMPHLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKVYS 470
   gi|22046118|ref| ACEVLADPSPLELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMPHLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKVYS 462
   gi|23618434|ref| ACEVLADPSPLELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMPHLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKVYS 480
   gi|13529308|gb|  -----1
   gi|19343754|gb|  -----1
                                490      500      510      520      530      540
30  SEQ ID NO:2      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
   gi|1136398|dbj|  FLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEGDTLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDR 530
   gi|22046118|ref| FLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEGDTLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDR 522
   gi|23618434|ref| FLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEGDTLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDR 540
   gi|13529308|gb|  -----1
   gi|19343754|gb|  -----1
                                550      560      570      580      590      600
40  SEQ ID NO:2      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
   gi|1136398|dbj|  AYLVWRWEYSYSSWTLFTCEIEMLLHVSTADVIQHCQRVKPIIDLVHKVISTDLSIADCL 590
   gi|22046118|ref| AYLVWRWEYSYSSWTLFTCEIEMLLHVSTADVIQHCQRVKPIIDLVHKVISTDLSIADCL 582
   gi|23618434|ref| AYLVWRWEYSYSSWTLFTCEIEMLLHVSTADVIQHCQRVKPIIDLVHKVISTDLSIADCL 600
   gi|13529308|gb|  -----1
   gi|19343754|gb|  -----1
                                610      620      630      640      650      660
45  SEQ ID NO:2      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
   gi|1136398|dbj|  LPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIA SCVNCLTVLAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPV 650
   gi|22046118|ref| LPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIA SCVNCLTVLAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPV 642
   gi|23618434|ref| LPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIA SCVNCLTVLAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPV 660
   gi|13529308|gb|  -----1
   gi|19343754|gb|  -----1
                                670      680      690      700      710      720
55  SEQ ID NO:2      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
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   gi|22046118|ref| SSLSQMFAEGMNAGGYGNLLMSEIQPOGEYGVITIAFLRLITTLVAGQLGSTQSQGLVPC 702
   gi|23618434|ref| SSLSQMFAEGMNAGGYGNLLMSEIQPOGEYGVITIAFLRLITTLVAGQLGSTQSQGLVPC 720
   gi|13529308|gb|  -----1
   gi|19343754|gb|  -----1
                                730      740      750      760      770      780
65  SEQ ID NO:2      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
   gi|1136398|dbj|  VMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVRQIGCLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCIC 770
   gi|22046118|ref| VMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVRQIGCLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCIC 762
   gi|23618434|ref| VMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVRQIGCLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCIC 780
   gi|13529308|gb|  -----1
   gi|19343754|gb|  -----1
                                790      800      810      820      830      840
70  SEQ ID NO:2      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
   gi|1136398|dbj|  VMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVRQIGCLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCIC 88
   gi|22046118|ref| VMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVRQIGCLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCIC 88
   gi|23618434|ref| VMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVRQIGCLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCIC 88
   gi|13529308|gb|  -----1
   gi|19343754|gb|  -----1

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SEQ ID NO:2
gi|1136398|dbj|
gi|22046118|ref|
gi|23618434|ref|
gi|13529308|gb|
gi|19343754|gb|

830
822
840
174
148
1

850 860 870 880 890 900
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LKPSSNVVSPLEQALSQHGAGNNLI AVLAKYIYHKHDPALPRLAIQLLKR LATVAPMSV 900
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LKPSSNVVSPLEQALSQHGAGNNLI AVLAKYIYHKHDPALPRLAIQLLKR LATVAPMSV 208
1

910 920 930 940 950 960
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YACLGNDAAAIRDAFLTRLOS KIEDMR IKVMILEFLT VAVETQPG LIEFLNLEV KDGSE 960
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YACLGNDAAAIRDAFLTRLOS KIEDMR IKVMILEFLT VAVETQPG LIEFLNLEV KDGSE 268
1

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GSKEFSLGMWSCLHVALELID SQQODRYWCPPLLHRAATAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTH 1020
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GSKEFSLGMWSCLHVALELID SQQODRYWCPPLLHRAATAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTH 328
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PKFWENLTSPLEFGLTSPSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIICLEIYVVVKGS LDQSLKDTLKKF 1080
LTKPKFWENLTSPLEFGLTSPSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIICLEIYVVVKGS LDQSLKDT 414
PKFWENLTSPLEFGLTSPSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIICLEIYVVVKGS LDQSLKDTLKKF 388
1

1090 1100 1110 1120 1130 1140
SIEKRFAFWWSGYVKS LAVHVAETEGSSCTSLLEYOMLVSAWRMLLIATTHADIMHLTDS 1130
SIEKRFAFWWSGYVKS LAVHVAETEGSSCTSLLEYOMLVSAWRMLLIATTHADIMHLTDS 1122
SIEKRFAFWWSGYVKS LAVHVAETEGSSCTSLLEYOMLVSAWRMLLIATTHADIMHLTDS 1140
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SIEKRFAFWWSGYVKS LAVHVAETEGSSCTSLLEYOMLVSAWRMLLIATTHADIMHLTDS 448
1

1150 1160 1170 1180 1190 1200
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VVRRLFLDVLDTGKALLVPASVNCRLGSMKCTLLILLRQWRELGSVDEILG 1178
VVRRLFLDVLDTGKALLVPASVNCRLGSMKCTLLILLRQWRELGSVDEILG 1200
HTDMAVVRRLFLDVLDTGKALLVPASVNCRLGSMKCTLLILLRQWRELGSVDEILG 534
VVRRLFLDVLDTGKALLVPASVNCRLGSMKCTLLILLRQWRELGSVDEILG 504
1

1210 1220 1230 1240 1250 1260
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PLTEILEGVLAQDQQLMEKTKAKVFSAFITVLQKEMKVS DIPQYSQVLNV CETLQEEV 564
TRP LQEEV 8

1270 1280 1290 1300 1310 1320

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SEQ ID NO:2
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gi|22046118|ref|
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gi|13529308|gb|
gi|19343754|gb|
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IALFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCVLGLHLAKELCEVDEDDGS 624
IALFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCVLGLHLAKELCEVDEDDGS 68

1390 1400 1410 1420 1430 1440
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CLPILLSVYQLSTNGTAQTSPASRKSLDAPSWPGVYRLSMLEQLLKTLYNFLPEALDF 1418
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CLPILLSVYQLSTNGTAQTSPASRKSLDAPSWPGVYRLSMLEQLLKTLYNFLPEALDF 188

1450 1460 1470 1480 1490 1500
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1510 1520 1530 1540 1550 1560
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1570 1580 1590 1600 1610 1620
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LFFCAQGLSCAYSG 853
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1630 1640 1650 1660 1670 1680
.....
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SFTTPTFDSEVAPSEFGLLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQAVGLSTQAEGRRTLKSLN 1014
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SFTTPTFDSEVAPSEFGLLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQAVGLSTQAEGRRTLKSLN 428

1690 1700 1710 1720 1730 1740
.....
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FTMENCFYLLISQAVRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSSSELSTLLSSLSRYFRRGAPSSPAT 1708
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FTMENCFYLLISQAVRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSSSELSTLLSSLSRYFRRGAPSSPAT 488

1750 1760 1770

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general, a mature polypeptide or protein may result from the operation of only one of these processes, or a combination of any of them.

The invention includes mutant or variant nucleic acids of SEQ ID NO:1, or a fragment thereof, any of whose bases may be changed from the corresponding bases shown in SEQ ID NO:1, while still encoding a protein that maintains at least one of its BFLP0169 -like activities and physiological functions (*i.e.*, modulating angiogenesis, neuronal development). The invention further includes the complement of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, including fragments, derivatives, analogs and homologs thereof. The invention additionally includes nucleic acids or nucleic acid fragments, or complements thereto, whose structures include chemical modifications.

One aspect of the invention pertains to isolated nucleic acid molecules that encode BFLP0169 proteins or biologically active portions thereof. Also included are nucleic acid fragments sufficient for use as hybridization probes to identify BFLP0169 -encoding nucleic acids (*e.g.*, BFLP0169 mRNA) and fragments for use as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) primers for the amplification or mutation of BFLP0169 nucleic acid molecules. As used herein, the term "nucleic acid molecule" is intended to include DNA molecules (*e.g.*, cDNA or genomic DNA), RNA molecules (*e.g.*, mRNA), analogs of the DNA or RNA generated using nucleotide analogs, and derivatives, fragments and homologs thereof. The nucleic acid molecule can be single-stranded or double-stranded, but preferably is double-stranded DNA.

"Probes" refer to nucleic acid sequences of variable length, preferably between at least about 10 nucleotides (nt), 100 nt, or as many as about, *e.g.*, 6,000 nt, depending on use. Probes are used in the detection of identical, similar, or complementary nucleic acid sequences. Longer length probes are usually obtained from a natural or recombinant source, are highly specific and much slower to hybridize than oligomers. Probes may be single- or double-stranded and designed to have specificity in PCR, membrane-based hybridization technologies, or ELISA-like technologies.

An "isolated" nucleic acid molecule is one that is separated from other nucleic acid molecules that are present in the natural source of the nucleic acid. Examples of isolated nucleic acid molecules include, but are not limited to, recombinant DNA molecules contained in a vector, recombinant DNA molecules maintained in a heterologous host cell, partially or

substantially purified nucleic acid molecules, and synthetic DNA or RNA molecules. Preferably, an "isolated" nucleic acid is free of sequences which naturally flank the nucleic acid (*i.e.*, sequences located at the 5' and 3' ends of the nucleic acid) in the genomic DNA of the organism from which the nucleic acid is derived. For example, in various embodiments, the isolated BFLP0169 nucleic acid molecule can contain less than about 50 kb, 25 kb, 5 kb, 4 kb, 3 kb, 2 kb, 1 kb, 0.5 kb or 0.1 kb of nucleotide sequences which naturally flank the nucleic acid molecule in genomic DNA of the cell from which the nucleic acid is derived. Moreover, an "isolated" nucleic acid molecule, such as a cDNA molecule, can be substantially free of other cellular material or culture medium when produced by recombinant techniques, or of chemical precursors or other chemicals when chemically synthesized.

A nucleic acid molecule of the present invention, *e.g.*, a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof, can be isolated using standard molecular biology techniques and the sequence information provided herein. Using all or a portion of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 as a hybridization probe, BFLP0169 nucleic acid sequences can be isolated using standard hybridization and cloning techniques (*e.g.*, as described in Sambrook *et al.*, eds., MOLECULAR CLONING: A LABORATORY MANUAL 2nd Ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 1989; and Ausubel, *et al.*, eds., CURRENT PROTOCOLS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, John Wiley & Sons, New York, NY, 1993.)

A nucleic acid of the invention can be amplified using cDNA, mRNA or alternatively, genomic DNA, as a template and appropriate oligonucleotide primers according to standard PCR amplification techniques. The nucleic acid so amplified can be cloned into an appropriate vector and characterized by DNA sequence analysis. Furthermore, oligonucleotides corresponding to BFLP0169 nucleotide sequences can be prepared by standard synthetic techniques, *e.g.*, using an automated DNA synthesizer.

As used herein, the term "oligonucleotide" refers to a series of linked nucleotide residues, which oligonucleotide has a sufficient number of nucleotide bases to be used in a PCR reaction. A short oligonucleotide sequence may be based on, or designed from, a genomic or cDNA sequence and is used to amplify, confirm, or reveal the presence of an identical, similar or complementary DNA or RNA in a particular cell or tissue. Oligonucleotides comprise portions of a nucleic acid sequence having about 10 nt, 50 nt, or 100 nt in length, preferably about 15 nt to

30 nt in length. In one embodiment, an oligonucleotide comprising a nucleic acid molecule less than 100 nt in length would further comprise at least 6 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof. Oligonucleotides may be chemically synthesized and may be used as probes.

5 In another embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention comprises a nucleic acid molecule that is a complement of the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, or a portion of this nucleotide sequence. A nucleic acid molecule that is complementary to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 is one that is sufficiently complementary to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 that it can hydrogen bond with little or no
10 mismatches to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, thereby forming a stable duplex.

As used herein, the term "complementary" refers to Watson-Crick or Hoogsteen base pairing between nucleotide units of a nucleic acid molecule, and the term "binding" means the physical or chemical interaction between two polypeptides or compounds or associated polypeptides or compounds or combinations thereof. Binding includes ionic, non-ionic, Von der
15 Waals, hydrophobic interactions, etc. A physical interaction can be either direct or indirect. Indirect interactions may be through or due to the effects of another polypeptide or compound. Direct binding refers to interactions that do not take place through, or due to, the effect of another polypeptide or compound, but instead are without other substantial chemical intermediates.

Moreover, the nucleic acid molecule of the invention can comprise only a portion of the
20 nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, e.g., a fragment that can be used as a probe or primer, or a fragment encoding a biologically active portion of BFLP0169. Fragments provided herein are defined as sequences of at least 6 (contiguous) nucleic acids or at least 4 (contiguous) amino acids; a length sufficient to allow for specific hybridization in the case of nucleic acids or for specific recognition of an epitope in the case of amino acids, respectively, and are at most some
25 portion less than a full length sequence. Fragments may be derived from any contiguous portion of a nucleic acid or amino acid sequence of choice. Derivatives are nucleic acid sequences or amino acid sequences formed from the native compounds either directly or by modification or partial substitution. Analogs are nucleic acid sequences or amino acid sequences that have a structure similar to, but not identical to, the native compound but differs from it in respect to

certain components or side chains. Analogs may be synthetic or from a different evolutionary origin and may have a similar or opposite metabolic activity compared to wild type.

Derivatives and analogs may be full length or other than full length, if the derivative or analog contains a modified nucleic acid or amino acid, as described below. Derivatives or
5 analogs of the nucleic acids or proteins of the invention include, but are not limited to, molecules comprising regions that are substantially homologous to the nucleic acids or proteins of the invention, in various embodiments, by at least about 70%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98%, or even 99% identity (with a preferred identity of 80-99%) over a nucleic acid or amino acid sequence of identical size or when compared to an aligned sequence in which the alignment is done by a
10 computer homology program known in the art, or whose encoding nucleic acid is capable of hybridizing to the complement of a sequence encoding the aforementioned proteins under stringent, moderately stringent, or low stringent conditions. An exemplary program is the Gap program (Wisconsin Sequence Analysis Package, Version 8 for UNIX, Genetics Computer Group, University Research Park, Madison, WI) using the default settings, which uses the
15 algorithm of Smith and Waterman.

A "homologous nucleic acid sequence" or "homologous amino acid sequence," or variations thereof, refer to sequences characterized by a homology at the nucleotide level or amino acid level as discussed above. Homologous nucleotide sequences encode those sequences coding for isoforms of a BFLP0169 polypeptide. Isoforms can be expressed in different tissues
20 of the same organism as a result of, for example, alternative splicing of RNA. Alternatively, isoforms can be encoded by different genes. In the present invention, homologous nucleotide sequences include nucleotide sequences encoding for a BFLP0169 polypeptide of species other than humans, including, but not limited to, mammals, and thus can include, *e.g.*, mouse, rat, rabbit, dog, cat, cow, horse, and other organisms. Homologous nucleotide sequences also
25 include, but are not limited to, naturally occurring allelic variations and mutations of the nucleotide sequences set forth herein. A homologous nucleotide sequence does not, however, include the nucleotide sequence encoding human BFLP0169 protein. Homologous nucleic acid sequences include those nucleic acid sequences that encode conservative amino acid substitutions (see below) in SEQ ID NO:2, as well as a polypeptide having BFLP0169 activity.

Biological activities of the BFLP0169 proteins are described below. A homologous amino acid sequence does not encode the amino acid sequence of a human BFLP0169 polypeptide.

The nucleotide sequence determined from the cloning of the human BFLP0169 gene allows for the generation of probes and primers designed for use in identifying and/or cloning BFLP0169 homologues in other cell types, *e.g.*, from other tissues, as well as BFLP0169 homologues from other mammals. The probe/primer typically comprises a substantially purified oligonucleotide. The oligonucleotide typically comprises a region of nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to at least about 12, 25, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350 or 400 or more consecutive sense strand nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; or an anti-sense strand nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; or of a naturally occurring mutant of SEQ ID NO:1.

Probes based on the human BFLP0169 nucleotide sequence can be used to detect transcripts or genomic sequences encoding the same or homologous proteins. In various embodiments, the probe further comprises a label group attached thereto, *e.g.*, the label group can be a radioisotope, a fluorescent compound, an enzyme, or an enzyme co-factor. Such probes can be used as a part of a diagnostic test kit for identifying cells or tissue which misexpress a BFLP0169 protein, such as by measuring a level of a BFLP0169-encoding nucleic acid in a sample of cells from a subject *e.g.*, detecting BFLP0169 mRNA levels or determining whether a genomic BFLP0169 gene has been mutated or deleted.

A "polypeptide having a biologically active portion of BFLP0169" refers to polypeptides exhibiting activity similar, but not necessarily identical to, an activity of a polypeptide of the present invention, including mature forms, as measured in a particular biological assay, with or without dose dependency. A nucleic acid fragment encoding a "biologically active portion of BFLP0169" can be prepared by isolating a portion of SEQ ID NO:1 that encodes a polypeptide having a BFLP0169 biological activity (biological activities of the BFLP0169 proteins are described below), expressing the encoded portion of BFLP0169 protein (*e.g.*, by recombinant expression *in vitro*) and assessing the activity of the encoded portion of BFLP0169.

The invention also provides polymorphic forms of BFLP0169 nucleic acid sequences as well as methods of detecting polymorphic sequences in BFLP0169 sequences. The polymorphic forms include genomic sequences corresponding to exons and/or introns associated with BFLP0169.

Individuals carrying polymorphic alleles of the invention may be detected at either the DNA, the RNA, or the protein level using a variety of techniques that are well known in the art. The present methods usually employ pre-characterized polymorphisms. That is, the genotyping location and nature of polymorphic forms present at a site have already been determined. The availability of this information allows sets of probes to be designed for specific identification of the known polymorphic forms.

The genomic DNA used for the diagnosis may be obtained from any nucleated cells of the body, such as those present in peripheral blood, urine, saliva, buccal samples, surgical specimen, and autopsy specimens. The DNA may be used directly or may be amplified enzymatically in vitro through use of PCR or other in vitro amplification methods such as the ligase chain reaction (LCR), strand displacement amplification (SDA), self-sustained sequence replication (3SR), prior to mutation analysis.

The detection of polymorphisms in specific DNA sequences, can be accomplished by a variety of methods including, but not limited to, restriction-fragment-length-polymorphism detection based on allele-specific restriction-endonuclease cleavage; hybridization with allele-specific oligonucleotide probes, including immobilized oligonucleotides or oligonucleotide arrays, allele-specific PCR, mismatch-repair detection (MRD), binding of MutS protein, denaturing-gradient gel electrophoresis (DGGE), single-strand-conformation-polymorphism detection, RNAase cleavage at mismatched base-pairs, chemical or enzymatic cleavage of heteroduplex DNA, methods based on allele specific primer extension, genetic bit analysis (GBA), the oligonucleotide-ligation assay (OLA), the allele-specific ligation chain reaction (LCR), gap-LCR, radioactive and/or fluorescent DNA sequencing using standard procedures well known in the art, and peptide nucleic acid (PNA) assays.

BFLP0169 Variants

The invention further encompasses nucleic acid molecules that differ from the nucleotide sequences shown in SEQ ID NO:1 due to the degeneracy of the genetic code. These nucleic acids thus encode the same BFLP0169 protein as that encoded by the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, *e.g.*, the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2. In another embodiment, an isolated

nucleic acid molecule of the invention has a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

5 In addition to the human BFLP0169 nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that DNA sequence polymorphisms that lead to changes in the amino acid sequences of BFLP0169 may exist within a population (*e.g.*, the human population). Such genetic polymorphism in the BFLP0169 gene may exist among individuals within a population due to natural allelic variation. As used herein, the terms "gene" and "recombinant gene" refer to nucleic acid molecules comprising an open reading frame encoding a BFLP0169 protein, preferably a mammalian BFLP0169 protein. Such natural allelic variations
10 can typically result in 1-5% variance in the nucleotide sequence of the BFLP0169 gene. Any and all such nucleotide variations and resulting amino acid polymorphisms in BFLP0169 that are the result of natural allelic variation and that do not alter the functional activity of BFLP0169 are intended to be within the scope of the invention.

15 Moreover, nucleic acid molecules encoding BFLP0169 proteins from other species, and thus that have a nucleotide sequence that differs from the human sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 are intended to be within the scope of the invention. Nucleic acid molecules corresponding to natural allelic variants and homologues of the BFLP0169 cDNAs of the invention can be isolated based on their homology to the human BFLP0169 nucleic acids disclosed herein using the human cDNAs, or a portion thereof, as a hybridization probe according to standard hybridization
20 techniques under stringent hybridization conditions. For example, a soluble human BFLP0169 cDNA can be isolated based on its homology to human membrane-bound BFLP0169. Likewise, a membrane-bound human BFLP0169 cDNA can be isolated based on its homology to soluble human BFLP0169.

25 Accordingly, in another embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention is at least 6 nucleotides in length and hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1. In another embodiment, the nucleic acid is at least 10, 25, 50, 100, 250, 500 or 750 nucleotides in length. In another embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention hybridizes to the coding region. As used herein, the term "hybridizes under stringent conditions" is intended to describe

conditions for hybridization and washing under which nucleotide sequences at least 60% homologous to each other typically remain hybridized to each other.

Homologs (*i.e.*, nucleic acids encoding BFLP0169 proteins derived from species other than human) or other related sequences (*e.g.*, paralogs) can be obtained by low, moderate or high stringency hybridization with all or a portion of the particular human sequence as a probe using methods well known in the art for nucleic acid hybridization and cloning.

Thus, the present invention also includes polynucleotides capable of hybridizing under reduced stringency conditions, more preferably stringent conditions, and most preferably highly stringent conditions, to polynucleotides described herein. Examples of stringency conditions are shown in the table below: highly stringent conditions are those that are at least as stringent as, for example, conditions A-F; stringent conditions are at least as stringent as, for example, conditions G-L; and reduced stringency conditions are at least as stringent as, for example, conditions M-R.

Table 4. Stringency Conditions

Stringency Condition	Polynucleotide Hybrid	Hybrid Length (bp) ¹	Hybridization Temperature and Buffer ¹¹	Wash Temperature and Buffer ¹¹
A	DNA:DNA	≥50	65°C; 1xSSC -or- 42°C; 1xSSC, 50% formamide	65°C; 0.3xSSC
B	DNA:DNA	<50	T _B *; 1xSSC	T _B *; 1xSSC 67°C; 0.3xSSC
C	DNA:RNA	≥ 50	67°C; 1xSSC -or- 45°C; 1xSSC, 50% formamide	
D	DNA:RNA	<50	T _D *; 1xSSC	T _D *; 1xSSC 70°C; 0.3xSSC
E	RNA:RNA	≥50	70°C; 1xSSC -or- 50°C; 1xSSC, 50% formamide	
F	RNA:RNA	<50	T _F *; 1xSSC	T _F *; 1xSSC 65°C; 1xSSC

Stringency Condition	Polynucleotide Hybrid	Hybrid Length (bp) ¹	Hybridization Temperature and Buffer ^H	Wash Temperature and Buffer ^H
G	DNA:DNA	≥50	65°C; 4xSSC -or- 42°C; 4xSSC, 50% formamide	
H	DNA:DNA	<50	T _H *; 4xSSC	T _H *; 4xSSC 67°C; 1xSSC
I	DNA:RNA	≥ 50	67°C; 4xSSC -or- 45°C; 4xSSC, 50% formamide	
J	DNA:RNA	<50	T _J *; 4xSSC	T _J *; 4xSSC 67°C; 1xSSC
K	RNA:RNA	≥ 50	70°C; 4xSSC -or- 50°C; 4xSSC, 50% formamide	
L	RNA:RNA	<50	T _L *; 2xSSC	T _L *; 2xSSC 50°C; 2xSSC
M	DNA:DNA	> 50	50°C; 4xSSC -or- 40°C; 6xSSC, 50% formamide	
N	DNA:DNA	<50	T _N *; 6xSSC	T _N *; 6xSSC 55°C; 2xSSC
O	DNA:RNA	> 50	55°C; 4xSSC -or- 42°C; 6xSSC, 50% formamide	
P	DNA:RNA	<50	T _P *; 6xSSC	T _P *; 6xSSC 60°C; 2xSSC
Q	RNA:RNA	> 50	60°C; 4xSSC -or- 45°C; 6xSSC, 50% formamide	
R	RNA:RNA	<50	T _R *; 4xSSC	T _R *; 4xSSC

1: The hybrid length is that anticipated for the hybridized region(s) of the hybridizing polynucleotides. When hybridizing a polynucleotide to a target polynucleotide of unknown

sequence, the hybrid length is assumed to be that of the hybridizing polynucleotide. When polynucleotides of known sequence are hybridized, the hybrid length can be determined by aligning the sequences of the polynucleotides and identifying the region or regions of optimal sequence complementarity.

5 ^H: SSPE (1xSSPE is 0.15M NaCl, 10mM NaH₂PO₄, and 1.25mM EDTA, pH 7.4) can be substituted for SSC (1xSSC is 0.15M NaCl and 15mM sodium citrate) in the hybridization and wash buffers; washes are performed for 15 minutes after hybridization is complete.

10 $T_B^* - T_R^*$: The hybridization temperature for hybrids anticipated to be less than 50 base pairs in length should be 5-10°C less than the melting temperature (T_m) of the hybrid, where T_m is determined according to the following equations. For hybrids less than 18 base pairs in length, $T_m(^{\circ}\text{C}) = 2(\# \text{ of A + T bases}) + 4(\# \text{ of G + C bases})$. For hybrids between 18 and 49 base pairs in length, $T_m(^{\circ}\text{C}) = 81.5 + 16.6(\log_{10}\text{Na}^+) + 0.41(\%G+C) - (600/N)$, where N is the number of bases in the hybrid, and Na^+ is the concentration of sodium ions in the hybridization buffer (Na^+ for 1xSSC = 0.165 M).

15 Preferably, each such hybridizing polynucleotide has a length that is at least 25% (more preferably at least 50%, and most preferably at least 75%) of the length of the polynucleotide of the present invention to which it hybridizes, and has at least 60% sequence identity (more preferably, at least 75% identity; most preferably at least 90% or 95% identity) with the polynucleotide of the present invention to which it hybridizes, where sequence identity is
20 determined by comparing the sequences of the hybridizing polynucleotides when aligned so as to maximize overlap and identity while minimizing sequence gaps.

 A non-limiting example of stringent hybridization conditions is hybridization in a high salt buffer comprising 6X SSC, 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 1 mM EDTA, 0.02% PVP, 0.02% Ficoll, 0.02% BSA, and 500 mg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA at 65°C. This hybridization is
25 followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.01% BSA at 50°C. An isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 corresponds to a naturally occurring nucleic acid molecule. As used herein, a "naturally-occurring" nucleic acid molecule refers to an RNA or DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence that occurs in nature (*e.g.*, encodes a natural protein).

In a second embodiment, a nucleic acid sequence that is hybridizable to the nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or fragments, analogs or derivatives thereof, under conditions of moderate stringency is provided. A non-limiting example of moderate stringency hybridization conditions are hybridization in 6X SSC, 5X Denhardt's solution, 0.5% SDS and 100 mg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA at 55°C, followed by one or more washes in 1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 37°C.

In a third embodiment, a nucleic acid that is hybridizable to the nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or fragments, analogs or derivatives thereof, under conditions of low stringency, is provided. A non-limiting example of low stringency hybridization conditions are hybridization in 35% formamide, 5X SSC, 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 5 mM EDTA, 0.02% PVP, 0.02% Ficoll, 0.2% BSA, 100 mg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA, 10% (wt/vol) dextran sulfate at 40°C, followed by one or more washes in 2X SSC, 25 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 5 mM EDTA, and 0.1% SDS at 50°C.

Conservative mutations

In addition to naturally-occurring allelic variants of the BFLP0169 sequence that may exist in the population, the skilled artisan will further appreciate that changes can be introduced by mutation into the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, thereby leading to changes in the amino acid sequence of the encoded BFLP0169 protein, without altering the functional ability of the BFLP0169 protein. For example, nucleotide substitutions leading to amino acid substitutions at "non-essential" amino acid residues can be made in the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1. A "non-essential" amino acid residue is a residue that can be altered from the wild-type sequence of BFLP0169 without altering the biological activity, whereas an "essential" amino acid residue is required for biological activity. For example, altering amino acid residues that are conserved among the BFLP0169 proteins of the present invention, is likely to result in loss of activity of the BFLP0169 protein.

Another aspect of the invention pertains to nucleic acid molecules encoding BFLP0169 proteins that contain changes in amino acid residues that are not essential for activity. Such BFLP0169 proteins differ in amino acid sequence from SEQ ID NO:2, yet retain biological activity. In one embodiment, the isolated nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence

encoding a protein, wherein the protein comprises an amino acid sequence at least about 75% homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. Preferably, the protein encoded by the nucleic acid is at least about 80% homologous to SEQ ID NO:2, more preferably at least about 90%, 95%, 98%, and most preferably at least about 99% homologous to SEQ ID NO:2.

5 An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a BFLP0169 protein homologous to the protein of SEQ ID NO:2 can be created by introducing one or more nucleotide substitutions, additions or deletions into the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, such that one or more amino acid substitutions, additions or deletions are introduced into the encoded protein.

10 Mutations can be introduced into the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 by standard techniques, such as site-directed mutagenesis and PCR-mediated mutagenesis. Preferably, conservative amino acid substitutions are made at one or more predicted non-essential amino acid residues. A "conservative amino acid substitution" is one in which the amino acid residue is replaced with an amino acid residue having a similar side chain. Families of amino acid residues having similar side chains have been defined in the art. These families include amino acids with
15 basic side chains (*e.g.*, lysine, arginine, histidine), acidic side chains (*e.g.*, aspartic acid, glutamic acid), uncharged polar side chains (*e.g.*, glycine, asparagine, glutamine, serine, threonine, tyrosine, cysteine), nonpolar side chains (*e.g.*, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, methionine, tryptophan), beta-branched side chains (*e.g.*, threonine, valine, isoleucine) and aromatic side chains (*e.g.*, tyrosine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, histidine). Thus,
20 a predicted nonessential amino acid residue in BFLP0169 is replaced with another amino acid residue from the same side chain family. Alternatively, in another embodiment, mutations can be introduced randomly along all or part of a BFLP0169 coding sequence, such as by saturation mutagenesis, and the resultant mutants can be screened for BFLP0169 biological activity to identify mutants that retain activity. Following mutagenesis of SEQ ID NO:1 the encoded
25 protein can be expressed by any recombinant technology known in the art and the activity of the protein can be determined.

In one embodiment, a mutant BFLP0169 protein can be assayed for (1) the ability to form protein:protein interactions with other BFLP0169 proteins, other cell-surface proteins, or biologically active portions thereof, (2) complex formation between a mutant BFLP0169 protein
30 and a BFLP0169 receptor; (3) the ability of a mutant BFLP0169 protein to bind to an

intracellular target protein or biologically active portion thereof; (e.g., avidin proteins); (4) the ability to bind BFLP0169 protein; or (5) the ability to specifically bind an anti-BFLP0169 protein antibody.

5 Antisense BFLP0169 Nucleic Acids

Another aspect of the invention pertains to isolated antisense nucleic acid molecules that are hybridizable to or complementary to the nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or fragments, analogs or derivatives thereof. An "antisense" nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to a "sense" nucleic acid encoding a protein, e.g., complementary to the coding strand of a double-stranded cDNA molecule or complementary to an mRNA sequence. In specific aspects, antisense nucleic acid molecules are provided that comprise a sequence complementary to at least about 10, 25, 50, 100, 250 or 500 nucleotides or an entire BFLP0169 coding strand, or to only a portion thereof. Nucleic acid molecules encoding fragments, homologs, derivatives and analogs of a BFLP0169 protein of SEQ ID NO:2, or antisense nucleic acids complementary to a BFLP0169 nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 are additionally provided.

In one embodiment, an antisense nucleic acid molecule is antisense to a "coding region" of the coding strand of a nucleotide sequence encoding BFLP0169. The term "coding region" refers to the region of the nucleotide sequence comprising codons which are translated into amino acid residues (e.g., the protein coding region of human BFLP0169 corresponds to SEQ ID NO:2). In another embodiment, the antisense nucleic acid molecule is antisense to a "noncoding region" of the coding strand of a nucleotide sequence encoding BFLP0169. The term "noncoding region" refers to 5' and 3' sequences which flank the coding region that are not translated into amino acids (i.e., also referred to as 5' and 3' untranslated regions).

Given the coding strand sequences encoding BFLP0169 disclosed herein (e.g., SEQ ID NO:1), antisense nucleic acids of the invention can be designed according to the rules of Watson and Crick or Hoogsteen base pairing. The antisense nucleic acid molecule can be complementary to the entire coding region of BFLP0169 mRNA, but more preferably is an oligonucleotide that is antisense to only a portion of the coding or noncoding region of BFLP0169 mRNA. For example, the antisense oligonucleotide can be complementary to the region surrounding the

translation start site of BFLP0169 mRNA. An antisense oligonucleotide can be, for example, about 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 or 50 nucleotides in length. An antisense nucleic acid of the invention can be constructed using chemical synthesis or enzymatic ligation reactions using procedures known in the art. For example, an antisense nucleic acid (*e.g.*, an antisense oligonucleotide) can be chemically synthesized using naturally occurring nucleotides or variously modified nucleotides designed to increase the biological stability of the molecules or to increase the physical stability of the duplex formed between the antisense and sense nucleic acids, *e.g.*, phosphorothioate derivatives and acridine substituted nucleotides can be used.

Examples of modified nucleotides that can be used to generate the antisense nucleic acid include: 5-fluorouracil, 5-bromouracil, 5-chlorouracil, 5-iodouracil, hypoxanthine, xanthine, 4-acetylcytosine, 5-(carboxyhydroxymethyl) uracil, 5-carboxymethylaminomethyl-2-thiouridine, 5-carboxymethylaminomethyluracil, dihydrouracil, beta-D-galactosylqueosine, inosine, N6-isopentenyladenine, 1-methylguanine, 1-methylinosine, 2,2-dimethylguanine, 2-methyladenine, 2-methylguanine, 3-methylcytosine, 5-methylcytosine, N6-adenine, 7-methylguanine, 5-methylaminomethyluracil, 5-methoxyaminomethyl-2-thiouracil, beta-D-mannosylqueosine, 5'-methoxycarboxymethyluracil, 5-methoxyuracil, 2-methylthio-N6-isopentenyladenine, uracil-5-oxyacetic acid (v), wybutoxosine, pseudouracil, queosine, 2-thiocytosine, 5-methyl-2-thiouracil, 2-thiouracil, 4-thiouracil, 5-methyluracil, uracil-5-oxyacetic acid methylester, uracil-5-oxyacetic acid (v), 5-methyl-2-thiouracil, 3-(3-amino-3-N-2-carboxypropyl) uracil, (acp3)w, and 2,6-diaminopurine. Alternatively, the antisense nucleic acid can be produced biologically using an expression vector into which a nucleic acid has been subcloned in an antisense orientation (*i.e.*, RNA transcribed from the inserted nucleic acid will be of an antisense orientation to a target nucleic acid of interest, described further in the following subsection).

The antisense nucleic acid molecules of the invention are typically administered to a subject or generated *in situ* such that they hybridize with or bind to cellular mRNA and/or genomic DNA encoding a BFLP0169 protein to thereby inhibit expression of the protein, *e.g.*, by inhibiting transcription and/or translation. The hybridization can be by conventional nucleotide complementarity to form a stable duplex, or, for example, in the case of an antisense nucleic acid molecule that binds to DNA duplexes, through specific interactions in the major groove of the

double helix. An example of a route of administration of antisense nucleic acid molecules of the invention includes direct injection at a tissue site. Alternatively, antisense nucleic acid molecules can be modified to target selected cells and then administered systemically. For example, for systemic administration, antisense molecules can be modified such that they specifically bind to receptors or antigens expressed on a selected cell surface, *e.g.*, by linking the antisense nucleic acid molecules to peptides or antibodies that bind to cell surface receptors or antigens. The antisense nucleic acid molecules can also be delivered to cells using the vectors described herein. To achieve sufficient intracellular concentrations of antisense molecules, vector constructs in which the antisense nucleic acid molecule is placed under the control of a strong pol II or pol III promoter are preferred.

In yet another embodiment, the antisense nucleic acid molecule of the invention is an α -anomeric nucleic acid molecule. An α -anomeric nucleic acid molecule forms specific double-stranded hybrids with complementary RNA in which, contrary to the usual β -units, the strands run parallel to each other. The antisense nucleic acid molecule can also comprise a 2'-*o*-methylribonucleotide.

Such modifications include, by way of nonlimiting example, modified bases, and nucleic acids whose sugar phosphate backbones are modified or derivatized. These modifications are carried out at least in part to enhance the chemical stability of the modified nucleic acid, such that they may be used, for example, as antisense binding nucleic acids in therapeutic applications in a subject.

BFLP0169 Ribozymes and PNA moieties

In still another embodiment, an antisense nucleic acid of the invention is a ribozyme.

Ribozymes are catalytic RNA molecules with ribonuclease activity that are capable of cleaving a single-stranded nucleic acid, such as a mRNA, to which they have a complementary region.

Thus, ribozymes (*e.g.*, hammerhead ribozymes) can be used to catalytically cleave BFLP0169 mRNA transcripts to thereby inhibit translation of BFLP0169 mRNA. A ribozyme having specificity for a BFLP0169-encoding nucleic acid can be designed based upon the nucleotide

sequence of a BFLP0169 DNA disclosed herein (*i.e.*, SEQ ID NO:1). For example, a derivative of a Tetrahymena L-19 IVS RNA can be constructed in which the nucleotide sequence of the

active site is complementary to the nucleotide sequence to be cleaved in a BFLP0169-encoding mRNA. Alternatively, BFLP0169 mRNA can be used to select a catalytic RNA having a specific ribonuclease activity from a pool of RNA molecules.

Alternatively, BFLP0169 gene expression can be inhibited by targeting nucleotide sequences complementary to the regulatory region of the BFLP0169 (*e.g.*, the BFLP0169 promoter and/or enhancers) to form triple helical structures that prevent transcription of the BFLP0169 gene in target cells.

In various embodiments, the nucleic acids of BFLP0169 can be modified at the base moiety, sugar moiety or phosphate backbone to improve, *e.g.*, the stability, hybridization, or solubility of the molecule. For example, the deoxyribose phosphate backbone of the nucleic acids can be modified to generate peptide nucleic acids. As used herein, the terms "peptide nucleic acids" or "PNAs" refer to nucleic acid mimics, *e.g.*, DNA mimics, in which the deoxyribose phosphate backbone is replaced by a pseudopeptide backbone and only the four natural nucleobases are retained. The neutral backbone of PNAs has been shown to allow for specific hybridization to DNA and RNA under conditions of low ionic strength. The synthesis of PNA oligomers can be performed using standard solid phase peptide synthesis protocols.

PNAs of BFLP0169 can be used in therapeutic and diagnostic applications. For example, PNAs can be used as antisense or antigene agents for sequence-specific modulation of gene expression by, *e.g.*, inducing transcription or translation arrest or inhibiting replication. PNAs of BFLP0169 can also be used, *e.g.*, in the analysis of single base pair mutations in a gene by, *e.g.*, PNA directed PCR clamping; as artificial restriction enzymes when used in combination with other enzymes, *e.g.*, S1 nucleases; or as probes or primers for DNA sequence and hybridization.

In another embodiment, PNAs of BFLP0169 can be modified, *e.g.*, to enhance their stability or cellular uptake, by attaching lipophilic or other helper groups to PNA, by the formation of PNA-DNA chimeras, or by the use of liposomes or other techniques of drug delivery known in the art. For example, PNA-DNA chimeras of BFLP0169 can be generated that may combine the advantageous properties of PNA and DNA.

The oligonucleotide may include other appended groups such as peptides (*e.g.*, for targeting host cell receptors *in vivo*), or agents facilitating transport across the cell membrane or the blood-brain barrier. In addition, oligonucleotides can be modified with hybridization triggered cleavage agents or intercalating agents. To this end, the oligonucleotide may be conjugated to another molecule, *e.g.*, a peptide, a hybridization triggered cross-linking agent, a transport agent, a hybridization-triggered cleavage agent, etc.

BFLP0169 Interfering Nucleic Acids

Also provided by the invention is an isolated double-stranded nucleic acid (DNA or RNA) that is capable of mediating specific inhibition of BFLP0169 gene expression. In preferred embodiments, one or both strands of the double-stranded molecule is an RNA molecule. Preferably, each RNA strand has a length from 19-25, particularly from 19-23 nucleotides, more particularly from 20-22 nucleotides, and is capable of mediating BFLP0169 target-specific nucleic acid modifications, particularly RNA interference and/or DNA methylation. The double-stranded BFLP0169 molecule may double stranded or have an overhang at one or both the 5' and/or 3' terminus. For example, the molecule may have a 3' overhang. The length of the 3'-overhang can be, *e.g.*, 1-6 nucleotides, 2-5 nucleotides, 3-4 nucleotides, or 2 nucleotides. The length of the overhang may be the same or different for each strand. In one embodiment, dsRNAs are composed of two 21 nucleotide strands that are paired such that 1, 2, or 3 nucleotide overhangs are present on both ends of the double-stranded RNA.

The RNA strands preferably have 3'-hydroxyl groups. The 5'-terminus preferably includes a phosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate or hydroxyl group. If desired, the 3'-overhangs may be stabilized against degradation. For example, they may be selected such that they consist of purine nucleotides, particularly adenosine or guanosine nucleotides. Alternatively, pyrimidine nucleotides may be replaced with modified analogues, *e.g.* substitution of uridine -2 nucleotide 3' overhangs by 2'-deoxythymidine is tolerated, and does not affect the efficiency of RNA interference. The RNA molecule may contain at least one modified nucleotide analogue. The nucleotide analogues may be located at positions where the target-specific activity, *e.g.* the RNAi mediating activity is not substantially affected. The modified nucleotide is preferably present in

a region at the 5'-end and/or the 3'-end of the double-stranded RNA molecule. In some embodiments, overhangs are stabilized by incorporating modified nucleotide analogues.

5 Nucleotide analogues can include sugar- or backbone-modified ribonucleotides. Other suitable nucleotides include a non-naturally occurring nucleobase instead of a naturally occurring nucleobases. For example, analogues can include uridines or cytidines modified at the 5-position, e.g. 5-(2-amino)propyl uridine, 5-bromo uridine; adenosines and guanosines modified at the 8-position, e.g. 8-bromo guanosine; deaza nucleotides, e.g. 7-deaza-adenosine; O- and N-alkylated nucleotides, e.g. N6-methyl adenosine are suitable. In preferred sugar-modified ribonucleotides the 2' OH-group is replaced by a group selected from H, OR, R, halo, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NR₂,
10 or CN, wherein R is C₁-C₆ alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl and halo is F, Cl, Br or I. In preferred backbone-modified ribonucleotide as the phosphoester group connecting to adjacent ribonucleotides is replaced by a modified group, e.g. of phosphothioate group. It should be noted that the above modifications may be combined.

15 The BFLP0169 interfering RNA molecule can be a naturally isolated RNA molecule or can be a synthetic RNA molecule. Preferably, the BFLP0169 interfering RNA molecule is substantially free from contaminants occurring in cell extracts, e.g. from *Drosophila* embryos. Further, the BFLP0169 interfering RNA molecule is preferably substantially free from any non-target-specific contaminants, particularly non-target-specific RNA molecules e.g. from contaminants occurring in cell extracts.

20 Isolated double-stranded BFLP0169 interfering molecules can be used for mediating BFLP0169 target-specific nucleic acid modifications, particularly RNAi, in mammalian cells, particularly in human cells.

The sequence of the double-stranded BFLP0169 interfering molecule of the present invention has a sufficient identity to a nucleic acid BFLP0169 target molecule in order to effect
25 target-specific interference of BFLP0169 gene expression and/or DNA methylation. Preferably, the sequence has an identity of at least 50%, particularly of at least 70% to the desired target molecule in the double-stranded portion of the RNA molecule. More preferably, the identity is at least 85% and most preferably 100% in the double-stranded portion of the RNA molecule. The identity of a BFLP0169 double-stranded interfering RNA molecule to a predetermined nucleic

acid target molecule, e.g. an BFLP0169 mRNA target molecule with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, may be determined using the equation: $I = (n/L) \times 100$, wherein I is the identity in percent, n is the number of identical nucleotides in the double-stranded portion of the ds RNA and the target and L is the length of the sequence overlap of the double-stranded portion of the dsRNA and the target.

Alternatively, the identity of the double-stranded RNA molecule relative to the target sequence may also be defined including the 3' overhang, particularly an overhang having a length from 1-3 nucleotides. In this case the sequence identity is preferably at least 50%, more preferably at least 70% and most preferably at least 85% to the target sequence. For example, the nucleotides from the 3' overhang and up to 2 nucleotides from the 5' and/or 3' terminus of the double strand may be modified without significant loss of activity.

A double-stranded BVL0169 RNA molecule may be prepared by a method that includes synthesizing two RNA strands each having a length from 19-25, e.g. from 19-23 nucleotides, wherein said RNA strands are capable of forming a double-stranded RNA molecule, wherein preferably at least one strand has a 3'-overhang from 1-5 nucleotides, and (b) combining the synthesized RNA strands under conditions, wherein a double-stranded RNA molecule is formed. the double-stranded RNA molecule is capable of mediating target-specific nucleic acid modifications, particularly RNA interference and/or DNA methylation.

Methods of synthesizing RNA molecules are known in the art. The single-stranded RNAs can also be prepared by enzymatic transcription from synthetic DNA templates or from DNA plasmids isolated from recombinant bacteria. Typically, phage RNA polymerases are used such as T7, T3 or SP6 RNA polymerase.

A further aspect of the present invention relates to a method of mediating BFLP0169-specific nucleic acid modifications, particularly RNA interference and/or DNA methylation in a cell or an organism by contacting the cell or organism with the double-stranded RNA molecule of the invention under conditions wherein target-specific nucleic acid modifications may occur and mediating a target-specific nucleic acid modification effected by the double-stranded RNA towards a BFLP0169 target nucleic acid.

BFLP0169 Polypeptides

A BFLP0169 polypeptide of the invention includes the BFLP0169-like protein whose
5 sequence is provided in SEQ ID NO:2. The invention also includes a mutant or variant form of
the disclosed BFLP0169 polypeptide, or of any of the fragments of the herein disclosed
BFLP0169 polypeptide sequences.

Thus, a BFLP0169 polypeptide includes one in which any residues may be changed from
the corresponding residue shown in SEQ ID NO:2 while still encoding a protein that maintains
10 its BFLP0169-like activities and physiological functions, or a functional fragment thereof. In
some embodiments, up to 20% or more of the residues may be so changed in the mutant or
variant protein. In some embodiments, the BFLP0169 polypeptide according to the invention is a
mature polypeptide.

Rapamycin Binding Domains

15 To identify regions of a BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence (e.g., a polypeptide including all
or a portion of SEQ ID NO:2) containing rapamycin binding domains, the entire coding
sequence, or a fragment of a BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence, is tested for its ability to bind
rapamycin. Any technique known in the art for determining binding of a polypeptide to a small
molecule can be used. For example, rapamycin can be labeled (*i.e.*, with a non-radioactive label
20 or with a radiolabel (e.g., ^{14}C , ^{32}P , ^3H , or ^{125}I), and mixed with a polypeptide containing some or
all of a BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence. The polypeptide optionally includes a moiety that
facilitates detection, e.g., the polypeptide can be a fusion polypeptide that includes a BFLP0169
sequence and a non-BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence.

A reagent specific for the polypeptide containing the BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence
25 (e.g., an antibody specific for BFLP0169 or a probe specific for the non-BFLP0169 polypeptide
in the case of a fusion polypeptide) is added to the mixture. Complexes that bind to the reagent
are isolated, and the presence of label, which reveals the presence of rapamycin, is determined.

In general, a BFLP0169-like variant that preserves BFLP0169-like function includes any
variant in which residues at a particular position in the sequence have been substituted by other

amino acids, and further include the possibility of inserting an additional residue or residues between two residues of the parent protein as well as the possibility of deleting one or more residues from the parent sequence. Any amino acid substitution, insertion, or deletion is encompassed by the invention. In favorable circumstances, the substitution is a conservative substitution as defined above.

One aspect of the invention pertains to isolated BFLP0169 proteins, and biologically active portions thereof, or derivatives, fragments, analogs or homologs thereof. Fragments can comprise contiguous stretches of SEQ ID NO:2, or interspersed segments of SEQ ID NO:2. Also provided are polypeptide fragments suitable for use as immunogens to raise anti-BFLP0169 antibodies. In one embodiment, native BFLP0169 proteins can be isolated from cells or tissue sources by an appropriate purification scheme using standard protein purification techniques. In another embodiment, BFLP0169 proteins are produced by recombinant DNA techniques. Alternative to recombinant expression, a BFLP0169 protein or polypeptide can be synthesized chemically using standard peptide synthesis techniques.

A "purified" protein or biologically active portion thereof is substantially free of cellular material or other contaminating proteins from the cell or tissue source from which the BFLP0169 protein is derived, or substantially free from chemical precursors or other chemicals when chemically synthesized. The language "substantially free of cellular material" includes preparations of BFLP0169 protein in which the protein is separated from cellular components of the cells from which it is isolated or recombinantly produced. In one embodiment, the language "substantially free of cellular material" includes preparations of BFLP0169 protein having less than about 30% (by dry weight) of non-BFLP0169 protein (also referred to herein as a "contaminating protein"), more preferably less than about 20% of non-BFLP0169 protein, still more preferably less than about 10% of non-BFLP0169 protein, and most preferably less than about 5% non-BFLP0169 protein. When the BFLP0169 protein or biologically active portion thereof is recombinantly produced, it is also preferably substantially free of culture medium, *i.e.*, culture medium represents less than about 20%, more preferably less than about 10%, and most preferably less than about 5% of the volume of the protein preparation.

The language "substantially free of chemical precursors or other chemicals" includes preparations of BFLP0169 protein in which the protein is separated from chemical precursors or

other chemicals that are involved in the synthesis of the protein. In one embodiment, the language "substantially free of chemical precursors or other chemicals" includes preparations of BFLP0169 protein having less than about 30% (by dry weight) of chemical precursors or non-BFLP0169 chemicals, more preferably less than about 20% chemical precursors or non-BFLP0169 chemicals, still more preferably less than about 10% chemical precursors or non-BFLP0169 chemicals, and most preferably less than about 5% chemical precursors or non-BFLP0169 chemicals.

Biologically active portions of a BFLP0169 protein include peptides comprising amino acid sequences sufficiently homologous to or derived from the amino acid sequence of the BFLP0169 protein, *e.g.*, the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 that include fewer amino acids than the full length BFLP0169 proteins, and exhibit at least one activity of a BFLP0169 protein. Typically, biologically active portions comprise a domain or motif with at least one activity of the BFLP0169 protein. A biologically active portion of a BFLP0169 protein can be a polypeptide which is, for example, 10, 25, 50, 100 or more amino acids in length.

A biologically active portion of a BFLP0169 protein of the present invention may contain at least one of the above-identified domains conserved between the BFLP0169 proteins. Moreover, other biologically active portions, in which other regions of the protein are deleted, can be prepared by recombinant techniques and evaluated for one or more of the functional activities of a native BFLP0169 protein.

In an embodiment, the BFLP0169 protein has an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2. In other embodiments, the BFLP0169 protein is substantially homologous to SEQ ID NO:2 and retains the functional activity of the protein of SEQ ID NO:2, yet differs in amino acid sequence due to natural allelic variation or mutagenesis, as described in detail below. Accordingly, in another embodiment, the BFLP0169 protein is a protein that comprises an amino acid sequence at least about 45% homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and retains the functional activity of the BFLP0169 proteins of SEQ ID NO:2.

Determining homology between two or more sequence

To determine the percent homology of two amino acid sequences or of two nucleic acids, the sequences are aligned for optimal comparison purposes (*e.g.*, gaps can be introduced in either

of the sequences being compared for optimal alignment between the sequences). The amino acid residues or nucleotides at corresponding amino acid positions or nucleotide positions are then compared. When a position in the first sequence is occupied by the same amino acid residue or nucleotide as the corresponding position in the second sequence, then the molecules are homologous at that position (*i.e.*, as used herein amino acid or nucleic acid "homology" is equivalent to amino acid or nucleic acid "identity").

The nucleic acid sequence homology may be determined as the degree of identity between two sequences. The homology may be determined using computer programs known in the art, such as GAP software provided in the GCG program package. Using GCG GAP software with the following settings for nucleic acid sequence comparison: GAP creation penalty of 5.0 and GAP extension penalty of 0.3, the coding region of the analogous nucleic acid sequences referred to above exhibits a degree of identity preferably of at least 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98%, or 99%, with the CDS (encoding) part of the DNA sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

The term "sequence identity" refers to the degree to which two polynucleotide or polypeptide sequences are identical on a residue-by-residue basis over a particular region of comparison. The term "percentage of sequence identity" is calculated by comparing two optimally aligned sequences over that region of comparison, determining the number of positions at which the identical nucleic acid base (*e.g.*, A, T, C, G, U, or I, in the case of nucleic acids) occurs in both sequences to yield the number of matched positions, dividing the number of matched positions by the total number of positions in the region of comparison (*i.e.*, the window size), and multiplying the result by 100 to yield the percentage of sequence identity. The term "substantial identity" as used herein denotes a characteristic of a polynucleotide sequence, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a sequence that has at least 80 percent sequence identity, preferably at least 85 percent identity and often 90 to 95 percent sequence identity, more usually at least 99 percent sequence identity as compared to a reference sequence over a comparison region. The term "percentage of positive residues" is calculated by comparing two optimally aligned sequences over that region of comparison, determining the number of positions at which the identical and conservative amino acid substitutions, as defined above, occur in both sequences to yield the number of matched positions, dividing the number of matched positions

by the total number of positions in the region of comparison (*i.e.*, the window size), and multiplying the result by 100 to yield the percentage of positive residues.

Chimeric and fusion proteins

5 The invention also provides BFLP0169 chimeric or fusion proteins. As used herein, a BFLP0169 "chimeric protein" or "fusion protein" comprises a BFLP0169 polypeptide operatively linked to a non-BFLP0169 polypeptide. An "BFLP0169 polypeptide" refers to a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence corresponding to BFLP0169, whereas a "non-BFLP0169 polypeptide" refers to a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence corresponding to a protein
10 that is not substantially homologous to the BFLP0169 protein, *e.g.*, a protein that is different from the BFLP0169 protein and that is derived from the same or a different organism. Within a BFLP0169 fusion protein the BFLP0169 polypeptide can correspond to all or a portion of a BFLP0169 protein. An example of a BFLP0169 fusion polypeptide is one that includes amino acids 21-230 of SEQ ID NO:2 (*e.g.*, a polypeptide that includes amino acids 1-246 or amino
15 acids 21-246 of SEQ ID NO:2). In one embodiment, a BFLP0169 fusion protein comprises at least one biologically active portion of a BFLP0169 protein. In another embodiment, a BFLP0169 fusion protein comprises at least two biologically active portions of a BFLP0169 protein. Within the fusion protein, the term "operatively linked" is intended to indicate that the BFLP0169 polypeptide and the non-BFLP0169 polypeptide are fused in-frame to each other.
20 The non-BFLP0169 polypeptide can be fused to the N-terminus or C-terminus of the BFLP0169 polypeptide.

For example, in one embodiment a BFLP0169 fusion protein comprises a BFLP0169 polypeptide operably linked to either an extracellular domain of a second protein, *i.e.*, non-BFLP0169 protein, or to the transmembrane and intracellular domain of a second protein, *i.e.*,
25 non-BFLP0169 protein. Such fusion proteins can be further utilized in screening assays for compounds that modulate BFLP0169 activity (such assays are described in detail below).

In another embodiment, the fusion protein is a GST-BFLP0169 fusion protein in which the BFLP0169 sequences are fused to the C-terminus of the GST (*i.e.*, glutathione S-transferase) sequences. Such fusion proteins can facilitate the purification of recombinant BFLP0169.

In another embodiment, the fusion protein is a BFLP0169-immunoglobulin fusion protein in which the BFLP0169 sequences comprising one or more domains are fused to sequences derived from a member of the immunoglobulin protein family.

5 Inhibition of the BFLP0169 ligand/BFLP0169 interaction can be used therapeutically for both the treatment of proliferative and differentiative disorders, *e.g.*, cancer, modulating (*e.g.*, promoting or inhibiting) cell survival as well as immunomodulatory disorders, autoimmunity, transplantation, and inflammation by alteration of cytokine and chemokine cascade mechanisms. Moreover, the BFLP0169-immunoglobulin fusion proteins of the invention can be used as immunogens to produce anti-BFLP0169 antibodies in a subject, to purify BFLP0169
10 ligands, and in screening assays to identify molecules that inhibit the interaction of BFLP0169 with a BFLP0169 ligand.

A BFLP0169 chimeric or fusion protein of the invention can be produced by standard recombinant DNA techniques. For example, DNA fragments coding for the different polypeptide sequences are ligated together in-frame in accordance with conventional techniques, *e.g.*, by employing blunt-ended or stagger-ended termini for ligation, restriction enzyme digestion
15 to provide for appropriate termini, filling-in of cohesive ends as appropriate, alkaline phosphatase treatment to avoid undesirable joining, and enzymatic ligation. In another embodiment, the fusion gene can be synthesized by conventional techniques including automated DNA synthesizers. Alternatively, PCR amplification of gene fragments can be carried out using anchor primers that give rise to complementary overhangs between two consecutive gene
20 fragments that can subsequently be annealed and reamplified to generate a chimeric gene sequence. Moreover, many expression vectors are commercially available that already encode a fusion moiety (*e.g.*, a GST polypeptide). A BFLP0169-encoding nucleic acid can be cloned into such an expression vector such that the fusion moiety is linked in-frame to the BFLP0169
25 protein.

If desired, libraries of fragments of the BFLP0169 protein coding sequence can be used to generate a variegated population of BFLP0169 fragments for screening and subsequent selection of variants of a BFLP0169 protein.

30 **BFLP0169 Antibodies**

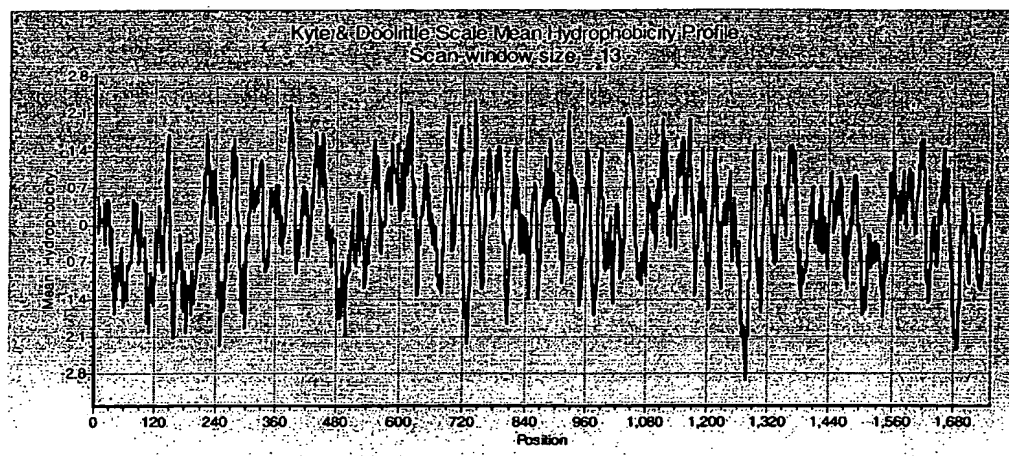
Also included in the invention are antibodies to BFLP0169 proteins, or fragments of BFLP0169 proteins. The term "antibody" as used herein refers to immunoglobulin molecules and immunologically active portions of immunoglobulin (Ig) molecules, i.e., molecules that contain an antigen binding site that specifically binds (immunoreacts with) an antigen. Such antibodies include, but are not limited to, polyclonal, monoclonal, chimeric, single chain, F_{ab} , F_{ab} , and $F_{(ab)_2}$ fragments, and an F_{ab} expression library. In general, an antibody molecule obtained from humans relates to any of the classes IgG, IgM, IgA, IgE and IgD, which differ from one another by the nature of the heavy chain present in the molecule. Certain classes have subclasses as well, such as IgG₁, IgG₂, and others. Furthermore, in humans, the light chain may be a kappa chain or a lambda chain. Reference herein to antibodies includes a reference to all such classes, subclasses and types of human antibody species.

An isolated BFLP0169-related protein of the invention may be intended to serve as an antigen, or a portion or fragment thereof, and additionally can be used as an immunogen to generate antibodies that immunospecifically bind the antigen, using standard techniques for polyclonal and monoclonal antibody preparation. The full-length protein can be used or, alternatively, the invention provides antigenic peptide fragments of the antigen for use as immunogens. An antigenic peptide fragment comprises at least 6 amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of the full length protein, such as an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, and encompasses an epitope thereof such that an antibody raised against the peptide forms a specific immune complex with the full length protein or with any fragment that contains the epitope. Preferably, the antigenic peptide comprises at least 10 amino acid residues, or at least 15 amino acid residues, or at least 20 amino acid residues, or at least 30 amino acid residues. Preferred epitopes encompassed by the antigenic peptide are regions of the protein that are located on its surface; commonly these are hydrophilic regions.

In certain embodiments of the invention, at least one epitope encompassed by the antigenic peptide is a region of BFLP0169-related protein that is located on the surface of the protein, e.g., a hydrophilic region. A hydrophobicity analysis of the human BFLP0169-related protein sequence will indicate which regions of a BFLP0169-related protein are particularly hydrophilic and, therefore, are likely to encode surface residues useful for targeting antibody production. As a means for targeting antibody production, hydropathy plots showing regions of

hydrophilicity and hydrophobicity may be generated by any method well known in the art, including, for example, the Kyte Doolittle or the Hopp Woods methods, either with or without Fourier transformation. A Kyte & Doolittle plot was generated for the BFLP0169 protein, and is shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5. Kyte & Doolittle Plot for BFLP0169



The novel nucleic acid encoding the BFLP0169 protein of the invention, or fragments thereof, may further be useful in diagnostic applications, wherein the presence or amount of the nucleic acid or the protein are to be assessed. These materials are further useful in the generation of antibodies that bind immunospecifically to the novel substances of the invention for use in therapeutic or diagnostic methods. The disclosed BFLP0169 protein has multiple hydrophilic regions, each of which can be used as an immunogen. In one embodiment, a contemplated BFLP0169 epitope is from about amino acids 20 to 90. In another embodiment, a BFLP0169 epitope is from about amino acids 100 to 130. In additional embodiments, BFLP0169 epitopes are from about amino acids 140 to 220, from about amino acids 240 to 250, from about amino acids 280 to 290, from about amino acids 330 to 340, from about amino acids 370 to 380, from about amino acids 400 to 410, from about amino acids 450 to 520, from about amino acids 530 to 540, from about amino acids 640 to 650, from about amino acids 720 to 730, from about amino acids 800 to 820, from about amino acids 850 to 855, from about amino acids 900 to 910, from about amino acids 920 to 930, from about amino acids 940 to 950, from about amino acids 970 to 990, from about amino acids 1000 to 1030, from about amino acids 1060 to 1080, from

about amino acids 1100 to 1110, from about amino acids 1170 to 1180, from about amino acids 1190 to 1210, from about amino acids 1250 to 1280, from about amino acids 1310 to 1320, from about amino acids 1350 to 1370, from about amino acids 1400 to 1420, from about amino acids 1430 to 1440, from about amino acids 1500 to 1560, from about amino acids 1600 to 1610, from about amino acids 1650 to 1690, from about amino acids 1700 to 1710, and from about amino acids 1720 to 1730.

Antibodies that are specific for one or more domains within an antigenic protein, or derivatives, fragments, analogs or homologs thereof, are also provided herein.

A protein of the invention, or a derivative, fragment, analog, homolog or ortholog thereof, may be utilized as an immunogen in the generation of antibodies that immunospecifically bind these protein components.

Various procedures known within the art may be used for the production of polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies directed against a protein of the invention, or against derivatives, fragments, analogs homologs or orthologs thereof. The term "monoclonal antibody" (MAb) or "monoclonal antibody composition", as used herein, refers to a population of antibody molecules that contain only one molecular species of antibody molecule consisting of a unique light chain gene product and a unique heavy chain gene product.

The antibodies directed against the protein antigens of the invention can further comprise humanized antibodies or human antibodies. The humanized forms of antibodies include chimeric immunoglobulins, immunoglobulin chains or fragments thereof (such as Fv, Fab, Fab', F(ab')₂ or other antigen-binding subsequences of antibodies) that are principally comprised of the sequence of a human immunoglobulin, and contain minimal sequence derived from a non-human immunoglobulin.

The antibodies can also be human antibodies, e.g., antibody molecules in which essentially the entire sequences of both the light chain and the heavy chain, including the CDRs, arise from human genes. Human monoclonal antibodies can be prepared by the trioma technique; the human B-cell hybridoma technique and the EBV hybridoma technique.

Human antibodies can also be produced using phage display libraries, or by introducing human immunoglobulin loci into transgenic animals, e.g., mice in which the endogenous

immunoglobulin genes have been partially or completely inactivated. Human antibodies may additionally be produced using transgenic nonhuman animals that are modified so as to produce fully human antibodies rather than the animal's endogenous antibodies in response to challenge by an antigen.

5 The invention also provides single-chain antibodies specific to an antigenic protein of the invention. In addition, methods can be adapted for the construction of F_{ab} expression libraries to allow rapid and effective identification of monoclonal F_{ab} fragments with the desired specificity for a protein or derivatives, fragments, analogs or homologs thereof. Antibody fragments that contain the idiotype to a protein antigen may be produced by techniques known in the art
10 including, but not limited to: (i) an $F_{(ab)_2}$ fragment produced by pepsin digestion of an antibody molecule; (ii) an F_{ab} fragment generated by reducing the disulfide bridges of an $F_{(ab)_2}$ fragment; (iii) an F_{ab} fragment generated by the treatment of the antibody molecule with papain and a reducing agent and (iv) F_v fragments.

15 Also provided by the invention are bispecific antibodies. Bispecific antibodies are monoclonal, preferably human or humanized, antibodies that have binding specificities for at least two different antigens. One of the binding specificities is for an antigenic protein of the invention. The second binding target is any other antigen, and advantageously is a cell-surface protein or receptor or receptor subunit.

20 If desired, antibody variable domains with the desired binding specificities (antibody-antigen combining sites) can be fused to immunoglobulin constant domain sequences. The fusion preferably is with an immunoglobulin heavy-chain constant domain, comprising at least part of the hinge, CH2, and CH3 regions. It is preferred to have the first heavy-chain constant region (CH1) containing the site necessary for light-chain binding present in at least one of the fusions.

25 Bispecific antibodies can be provided as full length antibodies or antibody fragments (e.g. $F(ab')_2$ bispecific antibodies).

 Also within the invention are antibodies with more than two valencies (such as trispecific antibodies).

Exemplary bispecific antibodies bind to two different epitopes, at least one of which originates in the protein antigen of the invention.

The invention also includes heteroconjugate antibodies, which include two covalently joined antibodies.

5 It can be desirable to modify the antibody of the invention to alter (e.g., enhance or diminish) its function. For example, cysteine residue(s) can be introduced into the Fc region, thereby allowing interchain disulfide bond formation in this region. The invention also includes immunoconjugates that include an antibody conjugated to a cytotoxic agent such as a
10 chemotherapeutic agent, toxin (e.g., an enzymatically active toxin of bacterial, fungal, plant, or animal origin, or fragments thereof), or a radioactive isotope (i.e., a radioconjugate).

Enzymatically active toxins and fragments thereof that can be used include diphtheria A chain, nonbinding active fragments of diphtheria toxin, exotoxin A chain (from *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*), ricin A chain, abrin A chain, modeccin A chain, alpha-sarcin, *Aleurites fordii* proteins, dianthin proteins, *Phytolacca americana* proteins (PAPI, PAPII, and PAP-S), momordica
15 charantia inhibitor, curcin, crotin, saponaria officinalis inhibitor, gelonin, mitogellin, restrictocin, phenomycin, enomycin, and the tricothecenes. A variety of radionuclides are available for the production of radioconjugated antibodies. Examples include ^{212}Bi , ^{131}I , ^{131}In , ^{90}Y , and ^{186}Re .

20 The antibody can be conjugated to a "receptor" (such streptavidin) for utilization in tumor pretargeting wherein the antibody-receptor conjugate is administered to the patient, followed by removal of unbound conjugate from the circulation using a clearing agent and then administration of a "ligand" (e.g., avidin) that is in turn conjugated to a cytotoxic agent.

BFLP0169 Recombinant Expression Vectors and Host Cells

25 Another aspect of the invention pertains to vectors, preferably expression vectors, containing a nucleic acid encoding a BFLP0169 protein, or derivatives, fragments, analogs or homologs thereof. As used herein, the term "vector" refers to a nucleic acid molecule capable of transporting another nucleic acid to which it has been linked. One type of vector is a "plasmid",

which refers to a circular double stranded DNA loop into which additional DNA segments can be ligated. Another type of vector is a viral vector, wherein additional DNA segments can be ligated into the viral genome. Certain vectors are capable of autonomous replication in a host cell into which they are introduced (*e.g.*, bacterial vectors having a bacterial origin of replication and episomal mammalian vectors). Other vectors (*e.g.*, non-episomal mammalian vectors) are integrated into the genome of a host cell upon introduction into the host cell, and thereby are replicated along with the host genomic sequence into which they have integrated. Moreover, certain vectors are capable of directing the expression of genes to which they are operatively-linked. Such vectors are referred to herein as "expression vectors". "Plasmid" and "vector" can be used interchangeably as the plasmid is the most commonly used form of vector. However, the invention is intended to include such other forms of expression vectors, such as viral vectors (*e.g.*, replication defective retroviruses, adenoviruses and adeno-associated viruses), which serve equivalent functions.

Within a recombinant expression vector, "operably-linked" is intended to mean that the nucleotide sequence of interest is linked to the regulatory sequence(s) in a manner that allows for expression of the nucleotide sequence (*e.g.*, in an *in vitro* transcription/translation system or in a host cell when the vector is introduced into the host cell). The term "regulatory sequence" is intended to include promoters, enhancers and other expression control elements (*e.g.*, polyadenylation signals). Regulatory sequences include those that direct constitutive expression of a nucleotide sequence in many types of host cell and those that direct expression of the nucleotide sequence only in certain host cells (*e.g.*, tissue-specific regulatory sequences). The expression vectors of the invention can be introduced into host cells to thereby produce proteins or peptides, including fusion proteins or peptides, encoded by nucleic acids as described herein (*e.g.*, BFLP0169 proteins, mutant forms of BFLP0169 proteins, fusion proteins, etc.).

The recombinant expression vectors of the invention can be designed for expression of BFLP0169 proteins in prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells. For example, BFLP0169 proteins can be expressed in bacterial cells such as *Escherichia coli*, insect cells (using baculovirus expression vectors) yeast cells or mammalian cells. Alternatively, the recombinant expression vector can be transcribed and translated *in vitro*, for example using T7 promoter regulatory sequences and T7 polymerase.

In yet another embodiment, a nucleic acid of the invention is expressed in mammalian cells using a mammalian expression vector. Examples of mammalian expression vectors include pCDM8 and pMT2PC. When used in mammalian cells, the expression vector's control functions
5 are often provided by viral regulatory elements. For example, commonly used promoters are derived from polyoma, adenovirus 2, cytomegalovirus, and simian virus 40. For other suitable expression systems for both prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells.

In another embodiment, the recombinant mammalian expression vector is capable of directing expression of the nucleic acid preferentially in a particular cell type (*e.g.*, tissue-specific
10 regulatory elements are used to express the nucleic acid). Tissue-specific regulatory elements are known in the art. Non-limiting examples of suitable tissue-specific promoters include the albumin promoter (liver-specific), lymphoid-specific promoters, in particular promoters of T cell receptors and immunoglobulins, neuron-specific promoters (*e.g.*, the neurofilament promoter), pancreas-specific promoters, and mammary gland-specific promoters (*e.g.*, milk whey promoter).
15 Developmentally-regulated promoters are also encompassed, *e.g.*, the murine hox promoters and the α -fetoprotein promoter.

The invention further provides a recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA molecule of the invention cloned into the expression vector in an antisense orientation. That is,
the DNA molecule is operatively-linked to a regulatory sequence in a manner that allows for
20 expression (by transcription of the DNA molecule) of an RNA molecule that is antisense to BFLP0169 mRNA. Regulatory sequences operatively linked to a nucleic acid cloned in the antisense orientation can be chosen that direct the continuous expression of the antisense RNA molecule in a variety of cell types, for instance viral promoters and/or enhancers, or regulatory
sequences can be chosen that direct constitutive, tissue specific or cell type specific expression of
25 antisense RNA. The antisense expression vector can be in the form of a recombinant plasmid, phagemid or attenuated virus in which antisense nucleic acids are produced under the control of a high efficiency regulatory region, the activity of which can be determined by the cell type into which the vector is introduced.

Another aspect of the invention pertains to host cells into which a recombinant expression vector of the invention has been introduced. The terms "host cell" and "recombinant host cell" are used interchangeably herein. It is understood that such terms refer not only to the particular subject cell but also to the progeny or potential progeny of such a cell. Because certain
5 modifications may occur in succeeding generations due to either mutation or environmental influences, such progeny may not, in fact, be identical to the parent cell, but are still included within the scope of the term as used herein.

A host cell can be any prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell. For example, BFLP0169 protein can be expressed in bacterial cells such as *E. coli*, insect cells, yeast or mammalian cells (such as
10 human, Chinese hamster ovary cells (CHO) or COS cells). Other suitable host cells are known to those skilled in the art.

A gene that encodes a selectable marker (*e.g.*, resistance to antibiotics) is generally introduced into the host cells along with the gene of interest. Various selectable markers include
15 those that confer resistance to drugs, such as G418, hygromycin and methotrexate. Nucleic acid encoding a selectable marker can be introduced into a host cell on the same vector as that encoding BFLP0169 or can be introduced on a separate vector. Cells stably transfected with the introduced nucleic acid can be identified by drug selection (*e.g.*, cells that have incorporated the selectable marker gene will survive, while the other cells die).

A host cell of the invention, such as a prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cell in culture, can be used to produce (*i.e.*, express) BFLP0169 protein. Accordingly, the invention further provides methods for producing BFLP0169 protein using the host cells of the invention. In one
20 embodiment, the method comprises culturing the host cell of invention (into which a recombinant expression vector encoding BFLP0169 protein has been introduced) in a suitable medium such that BFLP0169 protein is produced. In another embodiment, the method further
25 comprises isolating BFLP0169 protein from the medium or the host cell.

Transgenic BFLP0169 Animals

The host cells of the invention can also be used to produce non-human transgenic animals. For example, in one embodiment, a host cell of the invention is a fertilized oocyte or an embryonic stem cell into which BFLP0169 protein-coding sequences have been introduced. Such host cells can then be used to create non-human transgenic animals in which exogenous BFLP0169 sequences have been introduced into their genome or homologous recombinant animals in which endogenous BFLP0169 sequences have been altered. Such animals are useful for studying the function and/or activity of BFLP0169 protein and for identifying and/or evaluating modulators of BFLP0169 protein activity. As used herein, a "transgenic animal" is a non-human animal, preferably a mammal, more preferably a rodent such as a rat or mouse, in which one or more of the cells of the animal includes a transgene. Other examples of transgenic animals include non-human primates, sheep, dogs, cows, goats, chickens, amphibians, etc. A transgene is exogenous DNA that is integrated into the genome of a cell from which a transgenic animal develops and that remains in the genome of the mature animal, thereby directing the expression of an encoded gene product in one or more cell types or tissues of the transgenic animal. As used herein, a "homologous recombinant animal" is a non-human animal, preferably a mammal, more preferably a mouse, in which an endogenous BFLP0169 gene has been altered by homologous recombination between the endogenous gene and an exogenous DNA molecule introduced into a cell of the animal, *e.g.*, an embryonic cell of the animal, prior to development of the animal.

A transgenic animal of the invention can be created by introducing BFLP0169-encoding nucleic acid into the male pronuclei of a fertilized oocyte (*e.g.*, by microinjection, retroviral infection) and allowing the oocyte to develop in a pseudopregnant female foster animal. Sequences including SEQ ID NO:1 can be introduced as a transgene into the genome of a non-human animal. Alternatively, a non-human homologue of the human BFLP0169 gene, such as a mouse BFLP0169 gene, can be isolated based on hybridization to the human BFLP0169 cDNA (described further *supra*) and used as a transgene. Intronic sequences and polyadenylation signals can also be included in the transgene to increase the efficiency of expression of the transgene. A tissue-specific regulatory sequence(s) can be operably-linked to the BFLP0169 transgene to direct expression of BFLP0169 protein to particular cells. Methods for generating

transgenic animals via embryo manipulation and microinjection, particularly animals such as mice, have become conventional in the art. Similar methods are used for production of other transgenic animals. A transgenic founder animal can be identified based upon the presence of the BFLP0169 transgene in its genome and/or expression of BFLP0169 mRNA in tissues or cells of the animals. A transgenic founder animal can then be used to breed additional animals carrying the transgene. Moreover, transgenic animals carrying a transgene-encoding BFLP0169 protein can further be bred to other transgenic animals carrying other transgenes.

To create a homologous recombinant animal, a vector is prepared which contains at least a portion of a BFLP0169 gene into which a deletion, addition or substitution has been introduced to thereby alter, *e.g.*, functionally disrupt, the BFLP0169 gene. The BFLP0169 gene can be a human gene (*e.g.*, the DNA of SEQ ID NO:1), but more preferably, is a non-human homologue of a human BFLP0169 gene. For example, a mouse homologue of human BFLP0169 gene of SEQ ID NO:1 can be used to construct a homologous recombination vector suitable for altering an endogenous BFLP0169 gene in the mouse genome. In one embodiment, the vector is designed such that, upon homologous recombination, the endogenous BFLP0169 gene is functionally disrupted (*i.e.*, no longer encodes a functional protein; also referred to as a "knock out" vector).

Alternatively, the vector can be designed such that, upon homologous recombination, the endogenous BFLP0169 gene is mutated or otherwise altered but still encodes functional protein (*e.g.*, the upstream regulatory region can be altered to thereby alter the expression of the endogenous BFLP0169 protein). In the homologous recombination vector, the altered portion of the BFLP0169 gene is flanked at its 5'- and 3'-termini by additional nucleic acid of the BFLP0169 gene to allow for homologous recombination to occur between the exogenous BFLP0169 gene carried by the vector and an endogenous BFLP0169 gene in an embryonic stem cell. The additional flanking BFLP0169 nucleic acid is of sufficient length for successful homologous recombination with the endogenous gene. Typically, several kilobases of flanking DNA (both at the 5'- and 3'-termini) are included in the vector. The vector is then introduced into an embryonic stem cell line (*e.g.*, by electroporation) and cells in which the introduced BFLP0169 gene has homologously-recombined with the endogenous BFLP0169 gene are selected.

The selected cells are then injected into a blastocyst of an animal (*e.g.*, a mouse) to form aggregation chimeras. A chimeric embryo can then be implanted into a suitable pseudopregnant female foster animal and the embryo brought to term. Progeny harboring the homologously-recombined DNA in their germ cells can be used to breed animals in which all cells of the animal contain the homologously-recombined DNA by germline transmission of the transgene.

In another embodiment, transgenic non-humans animals can be produced that contain selected systems that allow for regulated expression of the transgene. One example of such a system is the cre/loxP recombinase system of bacteriophage P1. For a description of the cre/loxP recombinase system. Another example of a recombinase system is the FLP recombinase system of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. If a cre/loxP recombinase system is used to regulate expression of the transgene, animals containing transgenes encoding both the Cre recombinase and a selected protein are required. Such animals can be provided through the construction of "double" transgenic animals, *e.g.*, by mating two transgenic animals, one containing a transgene encoding a selected protein and the other containing a transgene encoding a recombinase.

Clones of the non-human transgenic animals described herein can also be produced according to the methods described in the art. In brief, a cell (*e.g.*, a somatic cell) from the transgenic animal can be isolated and induced to exit the growth cycle and enter G₀ phase. The quiescent cell can then be fused, *e.g.*, through the use of electrical pulses, to an enucleated oocyte from an animal of the same species from which the quiescent cell is isolated. The reconstructed oocyte is then cultured such that it develops to morula or blastocyte and then transferred to pseudopregnant female foster animal. The offspring borne of this female foster animal will be a clone of the animal from which the cell (*e.g.*, the somatic cell) is isolated.

Methods of Detecting BFLP0169 Nucleic Acids and Diagnosing Lupus Nephritis

Reagents that detect BFLP0169 nucleic acids and/or polypeptides can be used to detect levels of BFLP0169 RNA and/or proteins sequences in a sample. Because elevated levels of BFLP0169 RNA are found in animals with lupus nephritis, detection of enhanced levels of BFLP0169 RNA and/or BFLP0169 polypeptides indicates the presence or predisposition to lupus in the subject. In addition, lowered levels of BFLP0169 RNA in treated lupus subjects as

compared to untreated lupus indicates a return to a non-lupus state. Thus, the efficacy of lupus treatment can be monitored by comparing BFLP0169 RNA or protein levels in a sample from a treated population to samples in a diseased but untreated sample, (or a sample from an individual that has been treated for a shorter period of time.

5 Levels of BFLP0169 RNA can be assessed by comparing levels in a test cell population, from a subject whose lupus status is unknown, to levels in a reference cell population whose lupus status is known. Thus, the test cell population will typically include at least one cell that is capable of expressing a BFLP0169 gene. By "capable of expressing" is meant that the gene is present in an intact form in the cell and can be expressed. Expression of the BFLP0169 sequence
10 is then detected, if present, and, preferably, measured using methods known in the art. For example, the BFLP0169 sequences disclosed herein can be used to construct probes for detecting BFLP0169 RNA sequences in, *e.g.*, northern blot hybridization analyses or methods which specifically, and, preferably, quantitatively amplify BFLP0169 specific nucleic acid sequences. Alternatively, the sequences can be used to construct primers for specifically amplifying the
15 BFLP0169 sequences in, *e.g.*, amplification-based detection methods such as reverse-transcription based polymerase chain reaction.

BFLP0169 expression can be also measured at the protein level, *i.e.*, by measuring the levels of BFLP0169 polypeptides. Such methods are well known in the art and include, *e.g.*, immunoassays based on antibodies to proteins encoded by the genes.

20 Expression of sequences in test and control populations of cells can be compared using any art-recognized method for comparing expression of nucleic acid sequences. Whether or not comparison of the gene expression profile in the test cell population to the reference cell population reveals the presence, or degree, of the measured parameter depends on the composition of the reference cell population. For example, if the reference cell population is
25 composed of cells from a lupus free subject, a similar gene expression level in the test cell population and a reference cell population indicates the test cell population is from a lupus free subject.. Conversely, if the reference cell population is made up of cells from a diseased subject, a similar gene expression profile between the test cell population and the reference cell population indicates the test cell population is from a subject with lupus.

In various embodiments, a BFLP0169 sequence in a test cell population is considered comparable in expression level to the expression level of the ADIPO sequence in the reference cell population if its expression level varies within a factor of 2.0, 1.5, or 1.0 fold to the level of the BFLP0169 transcript in the reference cell population. In various embodiments, a BFLP0169 sequence in a test cell population can be considered altered in levels of expression if its expression level varies from the reference cell population by more than 1.0, 1.5, 2.0 or more fold from the expression level of the corresponding BFLP0169 sequence in the reference cell population.

If desired, comparison of differentially expressed sequences between a test cell population and a reference cell population can be done with respect to a control nucleic acid whose expression is independent of the parameter or condition being measured. Expression levels of the control nucleic acid in the test and reference nucleic acid can be used to normalize signal levels in the compared populations. Suitable control nucleic acids can readily be determined by one of ordinary skill in the art.

In some embodiments, the test cell population is compared to multiple reference cell populations. Each of the multiple reference populations may differ in the known parameter. Thus, a test cell population may be compared to a first reference cell population from a subject known to have lupus, as well as a second reference population known to not have lupus.

The test cell population that is exposed can be any number of cells, *i.e.*, one or more cells, and can be provided *in vitro*, *in vivo*, or *ex vivo*.

Preferably, cells in the reference cell population are derived from a tissue type as similar as possible to test cell, *e.g.*, renal tissue. In some embodiments, the control cell is derived from the same subject as the test cell. In other embodiments, the reference cell population is derived from a plurality of cells from multiple subjects. For example, the reference cell population can be a database of expression patterns from previously tested cells.

The subject is preferably a mammal. The mammal can be, *e.g.*, a human, non-human primate, mouse, rat, dog, cat, horse, or cow.

Pharmaceutical Compositions

The BFLP0169 nucleic acid molecules, BFLP0169 proteins, and anti-BFLP0169 antibodies (also referred to herein as "active compounds") of the invention, and derivatives, fragments, analogs and homologs thereof, can be incorporated into pharmaceutical compositions suitable for administration. Such compositions typically comprise the nucleic acid molecule, protein, or antibody and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. As used herein, "pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" is intended to include any and all solvents, dispersion media, coatings, antibacterial and antifungal agents, isotonic and absorption delaying agents, and the like, compatible with pharmaceutical administration. Suitable carriers are described in the most recent edition of Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, a standard reference text in the field, which is incorporated herein by reference. Preferred examples of such carriers or diluents include, but are not limited to, water, saline, finger's solutions, dextrose solution, and 5% human serum albumin. Liposomes and non-aqueous vehicles such as fixed oils may also be used. The use of such media and agents for pharmaceutically active substances is well known in the art. Except insofar as any conventional media or agent is incompatible with the active compound, use thereof in the compositions is contemplated. Supplementary active compounds can also be incorporated into the compositions.

A pharmaceutical composition of the invention is formulated to be compatible with its intended route of administration. Examples of routes of administration include parenteral, *e.g.*, intravenous, intradermal, subcutaneous, oral (*e.g.*, inhalation), transdermal (*i.e.*, topical), transmucosal, and rectal administration.

Pharmaceutical compositions suitable for injectable use include sterile aqueous solutions (where water soluble) or dispersions and sterile powders for the extemporaneous preparation of sterile injectable solutions or dispersion.

Dosage unit form as used herein refers to physically discrete units suited as unitary dosages for the subject to be treated; each unit containing a predetermined quantity of active compound calculated to produce the desired therapeutic effect in association with the required pharmaceutical carrier. The specification for the dosage unit forms of the invention are dictated by and directly dependent on the unique characteristics of the active compound and the particular

therapeutic effect to be achieved, and the limitations inherent in the art of compounding such an active compound for the treatment of individuals.

Sustained-release preparations can be prepared. Suitable examples of sustained-release preparations include semipermeable matrices of solid hydrophobic polymers containing the antibody, which matrices are in the form of shaped articles, e.g., films, or microcapsules. Examples of sustained-release matrices include polyesters, hydrogels (for example, poly(2-hydroxyethyl-methacrylate), or poly(vinylalcohol)), polylactides, copolymers of L-glutamic acid and γ ethyl-L-glutamate, non-degradable ethylene-vinyl acetate, degradable lactic acid-glycolic acid copolymers such as the LUPRON DEPOTTM (injectable microspheres composed of lactic acid-glycolic acid copolymer and leuprolide acetate), and poly-D-(-)-3-hydroxybutyric acid. While polymers such as ethylene-vinyl acetate and lactic acid-glycolic acid enable release of molecules for over 100 days, certain hydrogels release proteins for shorter time periods.

The pharmaceutical compositions can be included in a container, pack, or dispenser together with instructions for administration.

15 Screening and Detection Methods

The isolated nucleic acid molecules of the invention can be used to express BFLP0169 protein (e.g., via a recombinant expression vector in a host cell in gene therapy applications), to detect BFLP0169 mRNA (e.g., in a biological sample) or a genetic lesion in a BFLP0169 gene, and to modulate BFLP0169 activity, as described further, below. In addition, the BFLP0169 proteins can be used to screen drugs or compounds that modulate the BFLP0169 protein activity or expression as well as to treat disorders characterized by insufficient or excessive production of BFLP0169 protein or production of BFLP0169 protein forms that have decreased or aberrant activity compared to BFLP0169 wild-type protein. In addition, the anti-BFLP0169 antibodies of the invention can be used to detect and isolate BFLP0169 proteins and modulate BFLP0169 activity. For example, BFLP0169 activity includes T-cell or NK cell growth and differentiation, antibody production, and tumor growth.

The invention further pertains to novel agents identified by the screening assays described herein and uses thereof for treatments as described, *supra*.

Screening Assays

The invention provides a method (also referred to herein as a "screening assay") for identifying modulators, *i.e.*, candidate or test compounds or agents (*e.g.*, peptides, peptidomimetics, small molecules or other drugs) that bind to BFLP0169 proteins or have a stimulatory or inhibitory effect on, *e.g.*, BFLP0169 protein expression or BFLP0169 protein activity. The invention also includes compounds identified in the screening assays described herein.

In one embodiment, the screening assays are used to identify therapeutic agents for treating autoimmune diseases. The autoimmune disease can be, *e.g.*, lupus, including lupus nephritis.

In one embodiment, the invention provides assays for screening candidate or test compounds which bind to or modulate the activity of the membrane-bound form of a BFLP0169 protein or polypeptide or biologically-active portion thereof. The test compounds of the invention can be obtained using any of the numerous approaches in combinatorial library methods known in the art, including: biological libraries; spatially addressable parallel solid phase or solution phase libraries; synthetic library methods requiring deconvolution; the "one-bead one-compound" library method; and synthetic library methods using affinity chromatography selection. The biological library approach is limited to peptide libraries, while the other four approaches are applicable to peptide, non-peptide oligomer or small molecule libraries of compounds.

A "small molecule" as used herein, is meant to refer to a composition that has a molecular weight of less than about 5 kD and most preferably less than about 4 kD. Small molecules can be, *e.g.*, rapamycin, nucleic acids, peptides, polypeptides, peptidomimetics, carbohydrates, lipids or other organic or inorganic molecules. Libraries of chemical and/or biological mixtures, such as fungal, bacterial, or algal extracts, are known in the art and can be screened with any of the assays of the invention. The libraries of compounds may be presented in solution, or on beads, on chips, bacteria, spores, plasmids or on phage

In one embodiment, an assay is a cell-based assay in which a cell which expresses a membrane-bound form of BFLP0169 protein, or a biologically-active portion thereof, on the cell

surface is contacted with a test compound and the ability of the test compound to bind to a BFLP0169 protein determined. The cell, for example, can be of mammalian origin or a yeast cell. Determining the ability of the test compound to bind to the BFLP0169 protein can be accomplished, for example, by coupling the test compound with a radioisotope or enzymatic label such that binding of the test compound to the BFLP0169 protein or biologically-active portion thereof can be determined by detecting the labeled compound in a complex. For example, test compounds can be labeled with ^{125}I , ^{35}S , ^{14}C , or ^3H , either directly or indirectly, and the radioisotope detected by direct counting of radioemission or by scintillation counting. Alternatively, test compounds can be enzymatically-labeled with, for example, horseradish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase, or luciferase, and the enzymatic label detected by determination of conversion of an appropriate substrate to product. In one embodiment, the assay comprises contacting a cell which expresses a membrane-bound form of BFLP0169 protein, or a biologically-active portion thereof, on the cell surface with a known compound which binds BFLP0169 to form an assay mixture, contacting the assay mixture with a test compound, and determining the ability of the test compound to interact with a BFLP0169 protein, wherein determining the ability of the test compound to interact with a BFLP0169 protein comprises determining the ability of the test compound to preferentially bind to BFLP0169 protein or a biologically-active portion thereof as compared to the known compound.

In another embodiment, an assay is a cell-based assay comprising contacting a cell expressing a membrane-bound form of BFLP0169 protein, or a biologically-active portion thereof, on the cell surface with a test compound and determining the ability of the test compound to modulate (*e.g.*, stimulate or inhibit) the activity of the BFLP0169 protein or biologically-active portion thereof. Determining the ability of the test compound to modulate the activity of BFLP0169 or a biologically-active portion thereof can be accomplished, for example, by determining the ability of the BFLP0169 protein to bind to or interact with a BFLP0169 target molecule. As used herein, a "target molecule" is a molecule with which a BFLP0169 protein binds or interacts in nature, for example, a molecule on the surface of a cell which expresses a BFLP0169 interacting protein, a molecule on the surface of a second cell, a molecule in the extracellular milieu, a molecule associated with the internal surface of a cell membrane or a cytoplasmic molecule. A BFLP0169 target molecule can be a non-BFLP0169 molecule or a

BFLP0169 protein or polypeptide of the invention In one embodiment, a BFLP0169 target molecule is a component of a signal transduction pathway that facilitates transduction of an extracellular signal (*e.g.* a signal generated by binding of a compound to a membrane-bound BFLP0169 molecule) through the cell membrane and into the cell. The target, for example, can be a second intercellular protein that has catalytic activity or a protein that facilitates the association of downstream signaling molecules with BFLP0169.

Determining the ability of the BFLP0169 protein to bind to or interact with a BFLP0169 target molecule can be accomplished by one of the methods described above for determining direct binding. In one embodiment, determining the ability of the BFLP0169 protein to bind to or interact with a BFLP0169 target molecule can be accomplished by determining the activity of the target molecule. For example, the activity of the target molecule can be determined by detecting induction of a cellular second messenger of the target (*i.e.* intracellular Ca^{2+} , diacylglycerol, IP_3 , etc.), detecting catalytic/enzymatic activity of the target an appropriate substrate, detecting the induction of a reporter gene (comprising a BFLP0169-responsive regulatory element operatively linked to a nucleic acid encoding a detectable marker, *e.g.*, luciferase), or detecting a cellular response, for example, cell survival, cellular differentiation, or cell proliferation.

In yet another embodiment, an assay of the invention is a cell-free assay comprising contacting a BFLP0169 protein or biologically-active portion thereof with a test compound and determining the ability of the test compound to bind to the BFLP0169 protein or biologically-active portion thereof. Binding of the test compound to the BFLP0169 protein can be determined either directly or indirectly as described above. In one such embodiment, the assay comprises contacting the BFLP0169 protein or biologically-active portion thereof with a known compound which binds BFLP0169 to form an assay mixture, contacting the assay mixture with a test compound, and determining the ability of the test compound to interact with a BFLP0169 protein, wherein determining the ability of the test compound to interact with a BFLP0169 protein comprises determining the ability of the test compound to preferentially bind to BFLP0169 or biologically-active portion thereof as compared to the known compound.

In still another embodiment, an assay is a cell-free assay comprising contacting BFLP0169 protein or biologically-active portion thereof with a test compound and determining

the ability of the test compound to modulate (*e.g.* stimulate or inhibit) the activity of the BFLP0169 protein or biologically-active portion thereof. Determining the ability of the test compound to modulate the activity of BFLP0169 can be accomplished, for example, by determining the ability of the BFLP0169 protein to bind to a BFLP0169 target molecule by one of the methods described above for determining direct binding. In an alternative embodiment, determining the ability of the test compound to modulate the activity of BFLP0169 protein can be accomplished by determining the ability of the BFLP0169 protein further modulate a BFLP0169 target molecule. For example, the catalytic/enzymatic activity of the target molecule on an appropriate substrate can be determined as described above.

In yet another embodiment, the cell-free assay comprises contacting the BFLP0169 protein or biologically-active portion thereof with a known compound which binds BFLP0169 protein to form an assay mixture, contacting the assay mixture with a test compound, and determining the ability of the test compound to interact with a BFLP0169 protein, wherein determining the ability of the test compound to interact with a BFLP0169 protein comprises determining the ability of the BFLP0169 protein to preferentially bind to or modulate the activity of a BFLP0169 target molecule.

The cell-free assays of the invention are amenable to use of both the soluble form or the membrane-bound form of BFLP0169 protein. In the case of cell-free assays comprising the membrane-bound form of BFLP0169 protein, it may be desirable to utilize a solubilizing agent such that the membrane-bound form of BFLP0169 protein is maintained in solution. Examples of such solubilizing agents include non-ionic detergents such as n-octylglucoside, n-dodecylglucoside, n-dodecylmaltoside, octanoyl-N-methylglucamide, decanoyl-N-methylglucamide, Triton[®] X-100, Triton[®] X-114, Thesit[®], Isotridecypoly(ethylene glycol ether)_n, N-dodecyl--N,N-dimethyl-3-ammonio-1-propane sulfonate, 3-(3-cholamidopropyl) dimethylamminiol-1-propane sulfonate (CHAPS), or 3-(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethylamminiol-2-hydroxy-1-propane sulfonate (CHAPSO).

In more than one embodiment of the above assay methods of the invention, it may be desirable to immobilize either BFLP0169 protein or its target molecule to facilitate separation of complexed from uncomplexed forms of one or both of the proteins, as well as to accommodate

automation of the assay. Binding of a test compound to BFLP0169 protein, or interaction of BFLP0169 protein with a target molecule in the presence and absence of a candidate compound, can be accomplished in any vessel suitable for containing the reactants. Examples of such vessels include microtiter plates, test tubes, and micro-centrifuge tubes. In one embodiment, a fusion protein can be provided that adds a domain that allows one or both of the proteins to be bound to a matrix. For example, GST-BFLP0169 fusion proteins or GST-target fusion proteins can be adsorbed onto glutathione sepharose beads (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO) or glutathione derivatized microtiter plates, that are then combined with the test compound or the test compound and either the non-adsorbed target protein or BFLP0169 protein, and the mixture is incubated under conditions conducive to complex formation (*e.g.*, at physiological conditions for salt and pH). Following incubation, the beads or microtiter plate wells are washed to remove any unbound components, the matrix immobilized in the case of beads, complex determined either directly or indirectly, for example, as described, *supra*. Alternatively, the complexes can be dissociated from the matrix, and the level of BFLP0169 protein binding or activity determined using standard techniques.

Other techniques for immobilizing proteins on matrices can also be used in the screening assays of the invention. For example, either the BFLP0169 protein or its target molecule can be immobilized utilizing conjugation of biotin and streptavidin. Biotinylated BFLP0169 protein or target molecules can be prepared from biotin-NHS (N-hydroxy-succinimide) using techniques well-known within the art (*e.g.*, biotinylation kit, Pierce Chemicals, Rockford, Ill.), and immobilized in the wells of streptavidin-coated 96 well plates (Pierce Chemical). Alternatively, antibodies reactive with BFLP0169 protein or target molecules, but which do not interfere with binding of the BFLP0169 protein to its target molecule, can be derivatized to the wells of the plate, and unbound target or BFLP0169 protein trapped in the wells by antibody conjugation. Methods for detecting such complexes, in addition to those described above for the GST-immobilized complexes, include immunodetection of complexes using antibodies reactive with the BFLP0169 protein or target molecule, as well as enzyme-linked assays that rely on detecting an enzymatic activity associated with the BFLP0169 protein or target molecule.

In another embodiment, modulators of BFLP0169 protein expression are identified in a method wherein a cell is contacted with a candidate compound and the expression of BFLP0169

mRNA or protein in the cell is determined. The level of expression of BFLP0169 mRNA or protein in the presence of the candidate compound is compared to the level of expression of BFLP0169 mRNA or protein in the absence of the candidate compound. The candidate compound can then be identified as a modulator of BFLP0169 mRNA or protein expression:

- 5 based upon this comparison. For example, when expression of BFLP0169 mRNA or protein is greater (*i.e.*, statistically significantly greater) in the presence of the candidate compound than in its absence, the candidate compound is identified as a stimulator of BFLP0169 mRNA or protein expression. Alternatively, when expression of BFLP0169 mRNA or protein is less (statistically significantly less) in the presence of the candidate compound than in its absence, the candidate
- 10 compound is identified as an inhibitor of BFLP0169 mRNA or protein expression. The level of BFLP0169 mRNA or protein expression in the cells can be determined by methods described herein for detecting BFLP0169 mRNA or protein.

- In yet another aspect of the invention, the BFLP0169 proteins can be used as "bait proteins" in a two-hybrid assay or three hybrid assay, to identify other proteins that bind to or
- 15 interact with BFLP0169 ("BFLP0169-binding proteins" or "BFLP0169-bp") and modulate BFLP0169 activity. Such BFLP0169-binding proteins are also likely to be involved in the propagation of signals by the BFLP0169 proteins as, for example, upstream or downstream elements of the BFLP0169 pathway.

- The two-hybrid system is based on the modular nature of most transcription factors,
- 20 which consist of separable DNA-binding and activation domains. Briefly, the assay utilizes two different DNA constructs. In one construct, the gene that codes for BFLP0169 is fused to a gene encoding the DNA binding domain of a known transcription factor (*e.g.*, GAL-4). In the other construct, a DNA sequence, from a library of DNA sequences, that encodes an unidentified protein ("prey" or "sample") is fused to a gene that codes for the activation domain of the known
- 25 transcription factor. If the "bait" and the "prey" proteins are able to interact, *in vivo*, forming a BFLP0169-dependent complex, the DNA-binding and activation domains of the transcription factor are brought into close proximity. This proximity allows transcription of a reporter gene (*e.g.*, LacZ) that is operably linked to a transcriptional regulatory site responsive to the transcription factor. Expression of the reporter gene can be detected and cell colonies containing

the functional transcription factor can be isolated and used to obtain the cloned gene that encodes the protein which interacts with BFLP0169.

The invention further pertains to novel agents identified by the aforementioned screening assays and uses thereof for treatments as described herein.

5 The invention will be illustrated in the following non-limiting examples.

Example 1. Expression patterns of murine BFLP0169 sequence in disease-free, lupus nephritis simulated disease, and rapamycin-treated diseased mice

10 The expression of murine BFLP0169 sequences were examined in mice that developed lupus nephritis-like symptoms in the art-recognized NZB X NZW murine model (see, e.g., Drake et al., *Genetic analysis of the NZB contribution to lupus-like autoimmune disease in (NZB x NZW)F1 mice*, Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 91:4062-66, 1994; Finck et al., *Interleukin 6 promotes murine lupus in NZB/NZW F1 mice*, J. Clin. Invest 94:585-91, 1994; Guglielmotti et al., *Bindarit prlongs survival and reduces renal damage of NSB/W lupus mice*. Clin. Exp. 15 Rheumatol. 16:149, 1998 ; Yang et al., *Dietary conjugated linoleic acid protects against end stage disease of systemic lupus erythematosus in the NZB/W F1 mouse*, Immunopharmacol. Immunotoxicol. 22:433-49, 2000. Expression in diseased mice was compared to expression of the sequences in non-diseased mice of varying ages, and in mice whose lupus nephritis-like symptoms diminished following treatment with rapamycin or anti-B7 antibodies.

20 Mice were obtained from Jackson Laboratories at 6 to 8 weeks of age and aged on site. Data were obtained from kidneys of mice and harvested at the indicated time point: C57BL/6 female mice at 8, and 32 weeks, F1(NZBxNZW) female mice 12, 25, and 42 weeks, mice treated with Rapamycin at 42 and 55 weeks, mice treated with antibodies to B7.1 and B7.2 at 52 weeks. Each group contained three mice.

25 Rapamycin treated mice received 5 mg/kg rapamycin subcutaneous injection 3 times per week for 8 weeks staring at 29 weeks of age. Control mice received injections of vehicle (methyl cellulose) on the same schedule. Effectiveness of therapy was determined by normalization of

proteinuria and kidney histology (data not shown). Gene expression analysis was performed on mice sacrificed at the end of the treatment course (36 weeks of age, data not shown), and at 42 weeks (6 weeks after treatment) and 55 weeks (20 weeks after treatment).

Mice treated with anti-B7 received 200µg of anti-B7.1 (1G10F9 monoclonal) and 200µg of anti-B7.2 (GL1 monoclonal) by intra-peritoneal injections 3 times per week for two weeks starting at 29 weeks of age. Gene expression analysis was performed 21 weeks after treatment.

RNA isolation and hybridization to oligonucleotide arrays

Kidneys from both male and female mice were collected and snap frozen for RNA isolation. One half each kidney was used. A longitudinal section of the left kidney and a cross section of the right kidney was used in for each individual animal.

Snap frozen mouse kidney tissue was homogenized using homogenizer suspended in RLT buffer plus 2ME for 30 to 45 seconds. Total RNA was prepared using the Qiagen Midi Kit following the manufacturer's protocol. RNA was suspended in DEPC treated H₂O and quantified by OD 280.

cDNA was synthesized from 5µg of total RNA using the Superscript Kit (BRL). cDNA was purified using Phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol (25:24:1) with a Phage lock gel tube following the Phage lock protocol. Supernatant was collected and cleaned up using EtOH. Sample was resuspended in DEPC treated H₂O.

In vitro T7 polymerase driven transcription reactions for synthesis and biotin labeling of antisense cRNA. Qiagen RNeasy spin column purification used used to purify the cRNA. GeneChip hybridization mixtures contained 15µg fragmented cRNA, 0.5mg/ml acetylated BSA, 0.1mg/ml herring sperm DNA, in 1X MES buffer in a total volume of 200ul as per manufactures instructions. Reaction mixtures were hybridized for 16hr at 45C to Affymetrix Mu11KsubA and Mu11KsubB oligonucleotide arrays. The hybridization mixtures were removed and the arrays were washed and stained with Streptavidin R-phycoerthrin (Molecular Probes) using GeneChip Fluidics Station 400 and scanned with a Hewlett Packard GeneArray Scanner following manufactures instructions. Fluorescent data was collected and converted to gene specific difference average using MicroArray Suite software.

Analysis of Oligonucleotide Array Data

An eleven member standard curve, comprised of gene fragments derived from cloned bacterial and bacteriophage sequences were spiked into each hybridization mixture at concentrations ranging from 0.5pM to 150pM representing RNA frequencies of approximately 3.3 to 1000 parts per million (ppm). The biotinylated standard curve fragments were synthesized by T7-polymerase driven IVT reactions from plasmid-based templates. The spiked biotinylated RNA fragments serve both as an internal standard to assess chip sensitivity and as standard curve to convert measured fluorescent difference averages from individual genes into RNA frequencies in ppm as described by Hill et al.

Gene expression frequencies from each individual mouse kidney were measured and the expression data subjected to statistical analysis. Frequency values determined from individual measurements for a given group of mice were averaged. Genes whose frequencies differed significantly between C57BL6 kidneys at 12 and 32 weeks of age were classified as changing as a result of the normal aging process, and not due to a disease process.

Expression frequencies in young (disease-free), old (diseased), and effectively treated old (disease-free) F1(NZBxNZW) mice and C57BL6 control mice of oligonucleotide sequence identified on the Affymetrix Murine 11K chip by the qualifier aa002653_s_at are shown. This sequence represents an unknown mouse gene.

The results are shown in FIG. 1. Shown is a histogram showing gene expression levels in kidneys from the indicated mice. Expression levels of BFLP0169 do not vary significantly between C57BL/6 kidneys at 12 weeks of age and kidney at 32 weeks of age, indicating that expression levels do not increase with age in kidneys of non-diseased mice. In (NXBxNZW)F1 kidneys, the gene is expressed at normal levels prior to disease onset (12 weeks of age). As the mice age and disease progresses, increasing expression levels are observed at 25 weeks, 36 weeks (data not shown for 36 weeks), and 42 weeks. By 55 weeks of age, the mice have died due to kidney failure. Mice treated with Rapamycin for 8 weeks with treatment starting at 29 weeks of age, remain healthy past 55 weeks of age. Kidneys of mice that have received effective therapy (either rapamycin therapy or anti-B7 therapy) express normal levels of BFLP0169, and these normal levels persist in asymptomatic kidney 20 weeks after cessation of rapamycin

therapy and 15 weeks after cessation of anti-B7 therapy. The observation that expression levels return to normal when kidney function is normal indicates that elevated levels are related to, and diagnostic of, disease progression. Blocking the function of these genes may inhibit or retard disease progression. Expression levels may also be used to assess and compare effectiveness of various therapeutic interventions.

Example 2. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2

A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the L at position 78 of the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by a V, which is shown in bold font.

MIRKSKITSVLSFCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSYKPPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEV
GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLQCYLQEDYRGTRDSVKTVLQDERQSQUALILKIADYIYEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH
PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQQFEELYKTEAPTWEHGNLMTERRQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPS
DLVLVTKMFKEQGFGSRQTNRLVDETMDFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDC
LMLTFGDI PHHAPVLLAWALLRHRTLNPETSSVVRKIGGTAIQLNVFQYLTRLQLSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
FVLTSLLEHTLGNQQDIIDTACEVLADPSLPELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFPHLLSPILLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHDGTLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVRWEYSYSSWTLF
TCEIEMLLHVVSTADV IQHCQRVKPIIDL VHKVISTDLSIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASCVNCLTV
LAARNPAKWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQMSIAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGVITIAFLRLITTLVKGQGLST
QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVREIQGLILELILHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
VINIMGIGVDTIDMVMAAQRSDGAEQGQGLLIKT VKLAFSVTNNVIRLKPPSNVSPLEQALSQHGAGNNLIIV
LAKYIYKHDPALPRLAIQLLRLATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAIRDAFLTRLQSKIEDMRIKVMILEFLTVAVETQPL
IELFLNLEVKGSDGSKFSLGMWSCLHAVLELIDSQQDRYWCPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKPFW
ENLTSPLFGTLSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIIICLEIYVVKGSLDQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAYWSGYVKS LAVHVAE
TEGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLIATTHADIMHLTDSVVRRLQFLDVLDTGKALLVPASVNCLRLGSMKCTLLIL
LRQWKRELGSVDEILGPLTEILEGLQADQQLMEKTKAKVFSAFITVLQMKEMKVS DIPQYSQVLNV CETLQEEVIA
LFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCVLGLHLAKELCEVDEDGDSWLQVTRRLPILPTLLTILEV
SLRMKQNLHFTTEATLHLLLTARTQQGATAVAGAGITQSICLPLLSVYQLSTNGTAQTPSASRSLDAPSWPGVYRLS
MSLMEQLLKTLYNFLPEALDFVGVHQERTLQCLNAVRTVQSLACLEADHTVGFILQLSNFMKEWHFHLPLQMRDIQ
VNLGYLCQACTSLLHSRMLQHYLQNKNGDGLPSAVAQRVQRPSSAASAPSSSKQPAADTEASEQQALHTVQYGLLK
ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDSEVAPSGFTLLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQA
VGLSTQAEGRTRLKSLMFTMENC FYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSSSELSTLLSSLSRYFRGAPSSPAT
GVLPSPPQGSTLSLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:3)

Example 3. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2

A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the L at position 198 of the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by an I, which is shown in bold font.

MIRKSKITSVLSFCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSYKPPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLQCYLQEDYRGTRDSVKTVLQDERQSQUALILKIADYIYEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH

PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQQFEELYKTEAPTWETHGNIMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPS
 DLLVLTGMFKEQGFSGRQTNRLHVDETMDPFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDCL
 LMLTFGDI PHHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIGGTAIQLNVFYQLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
 FVLTSLELHTLGNQQDI IDTACEVLADPSLPPELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFPHLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
 5 YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEDEGTLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVRWEYSYSSWTLF
 TCEIEMLLHVSTADVIQHCQRVKPIIDLHVHVISTDLSIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASVCNCLTV
 LAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQMSIAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGVTFIAFLRLITTLVKGQLGST
 QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVREQIGCLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
 VINIMGIGVDTIDMVMAAQRSDGAEQGGQGLLIKTVKLAFSVTNNVIRLKPPSNVVSPLAQALSQHGAHGNLI
 10 LAKYIYHKHDPALPRLAIQLLKRLATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAAI RDAFLTRLQSKI EDMRIKVMILEFLTVAVETQPGI
 IELFLNLEVKDGS DGSKEFSLGMWSCLHAVLELIDSQQQDRYWCPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKPFW
 ENLTSPFGTLPSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIIICLEIYVVVKGSLDQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAWYSGYVKS LAVHVAE
 TEGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLI IATTHADIMHLDTSVRRQLFLDVLDTGKALLVPASVNCRLRSGMKCTLLLLIL
 LRQWKRELGSVDEILGPLETEILEGVQLADQQLMEKTKAKVFSAFITVLQMKEMKVS DIPQYSQVLNVCETLQEEVIAL
 15 LFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCLGLHLAKELCEVDEDEGDSWLQVTRRLPILPTLLTTLEVS
 SLRMKQNLHFTFATLHLLLTARTQQGATAVAGAGITQSI CLPPLSVYQLSTNGTAQTPSASRKSLDAPSWPGVYRLS
 MSLMEQLLKTLYNLFPEALDFVGVHQERTLQCLNAVTRVQSLACLEEDHTVGFIQLSNFMKEWHFHLPLQMRDIQV
 VNLGYLCQACTSLLHSRKMLQHYLQNKNGDGLPSAVAQRVQRPSSAASAPSSSKQPAADTEASEQALHTVQYGLLKI
 ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDSEVAPSFGTLLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQAV
 20 VGLSTQAEGRTRLKSLMFTMENCFYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSELSTLLSSLSRYFRRGAPSSPAT
 GVLPSQGGKSTSLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:4)

Example 4. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2

A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid
 25 sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the R at position 267 of
 the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by a K, which is shown in bold font.

MIRKSKITSVLSPCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSYKPPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
 GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLLQCYLQEDYGRTRDSVKTVLQDERQSQALILKIADYYEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERP
 YRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQQFEELYKTEAPTWETHGNLMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPSD
 30 LLVLTGMFKEQGFSGRQTNRLHVDETMDPFVDKIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDCL
 MLTFGDI PHHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIGGTAIQLNVFYQLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLSF
 VLTSLLELHTLGNQQDI IDTACEVLADPSLPPELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFPHLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
 SFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEDEGTLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVRWEYSYSSWTLFT
 CEIEMLLHVSTADVIQHCQRVKPIIDLHVHVISTDLSIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASVCNCLTVL
 35 AARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQMSIAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGVTFIAFLRLITTLVKGQLGSTQ
 SQGLVPCVMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVREQIGCLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQTV
 INIMGIGVDTIDMVMAAQRSDGAEQGGQGLLIKTVKLAFSVTNNVIRLKPPSNVVSPLAQALSQHGAHGNLI
 IELFLNLEVKDGS DGSKEFSLGMWSCLHAVLELIDSQQQDRYWCPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKPFWE
 40 ELFLNLEVKDGS DGSKEFSLGMWSCLHAVLELIDSQQQDRYWCPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKPFWE
 NLTSPLFGTLPSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIIICLEIYVVVKGSLDQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAWYSGYVKS LAVHVAE
 EGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLI IATTHADIMHLDTSVRRQLFLDVLDTGKALLVPASVNCRLRSGMKCTLLLLIL
 RQWKRELGSVDEILGPLETEILEGVQLADQQLMEKTKAKVFSAFITVLQMKEMKVS DIPQYSQVLNVCETLQEEVIAL
 45 FDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCLGLHLAKELCEVDEDEGDSWLQVTRRLPILPTLLTTLEVS
 LRMKQNLHFTFATLHLLLTARTQQGATAVAGAGITQSI CLPPLSVYQLSTNGTAQTPSASRKSLDAPSWPGVYRLSM
 SLMEQLLKTLYNLFPEALDFVGVHQERTLQCLNAVTRVQSLACLEEDHTVGFIQLSNFMKEWHFHLPLQMRDIQV
 NLGYLCQACTSLLHSRKMLQHYLQNKNGDGLPSAVAQRVQRPSSAASAPSSSKQPAADTEASEQALHTVQYGLLKI
 ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDSEVAPSFGTLLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQAV
 50 GLSTQAEGRTRLKSLMFTMENCFYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSELSTLLSSLSRYFRRGAPSSPATG
 VLPSPQGGKSTSLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:5)

Example 5. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2

A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the Q at position 355 of the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by an N, which is shown in bold font.

```

5  MIRKSKITSVLSFCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSYKPPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
   GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLLQCYLQEDYRGTRDSVKTIVLQDERQSQALILKIADYYYEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH
   PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQQFEELYKTEAPTWETHGNLMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPS
   DLLVLTKMFKEQGFGRQTNRHLVDETMDFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDC
10  LMLTFGDI PHHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIGGTAINLNVFQYLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
   FVLTSLELHTLGNQQDIIDTACEVLADPSLPELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFPRLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
   YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEDGTLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVRWEYSYSSWTLF
   TCEIEMLLHVSTADVIQHCQRVKPIIDLVHKVISTDLSIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASVCNCLTV
15  LAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQMSAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGVTIAFLRLITTLVKGQLGST
   QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMLPSYHKWRYNSHGVREIQIGCLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
   VINIMIGVDTIDMVMAAQRSDGAEGQGGQQLIKTVKLAFSVTNNVIRLKPPSNVVSPLEQALSQHGAGHNNLIAV
   LAKYIYHKHDPALPRLAIQLLKRLATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAAIRDAFLTRLQSKIEDMRIKVMILEFLTVAVETQPGL
   IELFLNLEVKDGSDGSKEFSLGMWSCLHAVLELIDSQQQDRYWCPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKPFW
   ENLTSPLFGTLSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIICLEIYYVVKGSLDQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAYWSGYVKSLAVHVAE
20  TEGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLIIATTHADIMHLTDSVVRQFLDVLDGTKALLVPASVNCRLRLGSMKCTLLLIL
   LRQWKRELGSVDEILGPLEILEGLVQADQQLMEKTKAKVFSAFITVLQMKEMKVSDIPQYSQVLVNVCETLQEEVIA
   LFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCVLGLHLAKELCEVDEDGSWLQVTRRLPILPTLLTTLEV
   SLRMKQNLHFTEATLHLLTLARTQQGATAVAGAGITQSICPLLSVYQLSTNGTAQTPSASRSLDAPSWPGVYRLS
   MSLMEQLLKTLRYNFLPEALDFVGVHQERTLQCLNAVRTVQSLACLEEADHTVGFILQLSNFMKEWHFHLPQLMRDIQ
25  VNLGYLCQACTSLLHSRKMLQHYLQNKNGDGLPSAVAQRVQRPPSAASAAPSSSKQPAADTEASEQQALHTVQYGLLK
   TLSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDSEVAPSGFTLLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQA
   VGLSTQAEGRTRLKSLLMFTMENCFYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSELSTLLSSLSRYFRRGAPSSPAT
   GVLPSPQGKSTLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:6)

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Example 6. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2

A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the H at position 446 of the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by an R, which is shown in bold font.

```

35  MIRKSKITSVLSFCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSYKPPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
   GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLLQCYLQEDYRGTRDSVKTIVLQDERQSQALILKIADYYYEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH
   PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQQFEELYKTEAPTWETHGNLMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPS
   DLLVLTKMFKEQGFGRQTNRHLVDETMDFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDC
40  LMLTFGDI PHHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIGGTAINLNVFQYLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
   FVLTSLELHTLGNQQDIIDTACEVLADPSLPELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFPRLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
   YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEDGTLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVRWEYSYSSWTLF
   TCEIEMLLHVSTADVIQHCQRVKPIIDLVHKVISTDLSIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASVCNCLTV
45  LAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQMSAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGVTIAFLRLITTLVKGQLGST
   QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMLPSYHKWRYNSHGVREIQIGCLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
   VINIMIGVDTIDMVMAAQRSDGAEGQGGQQLIKTVKLAFSVTNNVIRLKPPSNVVSPLEQALSQHGAGHNNLIAV
   LAKYIYHKHDPALPRLAIQLLKRLATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAAIRDAFLTRLQSKIEDMRIKVMILEFLTVAVETQPGL
   IELFLNLEVKDGSDGSKEFSLGMWSCLHAVLELIDSQQQDRYWCPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKPFW
   ENLTSPLFGTLSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIICLEIYYVVKGSLDQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAYWSGYVKSLAVHVAE
   TEGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLIIATTHADIMHLTDSVVRQFLDVLDGTKALLVPASVNCRLRLGSMKCTLLLIL

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LRQWKRELGSVDEILGPLETEILEGVLOADQQLMEKTKAKVFSAFITVLQMKEMKVSDIPQYSQVLVNCETLQEEVIA
 LFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCVLGLHLAKELCEVDEDEGDSWLQVTRRLPILPTLLTTLEV
 SLRMKQNLHFTTEATLHLLTLARTQQGATAVAGAGITQSIICPLLSVYQLSTNGTAQTPSASRKSLDAPSWPGVYRLS
 MSLMEQLLKTLYRNFLPEALDFVGVHQERTLQCLNAVTVQSLACLEEADHTVGFIQLSNFMKEWHFHLPLQMRDIQ
 VNLGYLCQACTSLLHSRKMLQHYLQNKNGDGLPSAVAQRVQRPPSAASAAPSSSKQPAADTEASEQQALHTVQYGLLK
 ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDSEVAPSFGTLLATVNVVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQA
 VGLSTQAEGRTRLKSLMFTMENCYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSSSELSTLLSSLSRYFRRGAPSSPAT
 GVLPSPOGKSTSLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:7)

10 **Example 7. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2**

A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the L at position 553 of the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by an I, which is shown in bold font.

15 MIRKSKITSVLSPFCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSYYKPPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
 GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLLQCYLQEDYRGTRDSVKTIVLQDERQSQALILKIADYYYEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH
 PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQQFEELYKTEAPTWEHGNLMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPS
 20 DLLVLTAKMFKEQGFGSRQTNRLHVDETMDPFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDC
 LMLTFGDIPIHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIGGTAIQLNVFQYLTRLQLSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
 FVLTSLLEHLTLGNQQDIIDTACEVLADPSLPELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFPHLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
 YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEGDTLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVRWEYSYSSWTLF
 TCEIEMILHVSTADVIQHCRVKPIIDLHVHVISTDLSIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASCVNCLTV
 25 LAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQMSIAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGVITIAFLRLITTLVKGQLGST
 QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMLPYHKWRYNSHGVREIQGLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
 VINIMIGVDTIDMVMAAQPRSDGAEGQGQQLIKTVKLAFSVTNNVIRLKPPSNVVSFLEQALSQHGAGNNLIIV
 LAKYIYHKHPALPRLAIQLLKRATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAAIRDAFLTRLQSKI EDMRIKVMILEFLTVAVETQPGI
 IELFLNLEVKDGS DGSKEFSLGMWSCLHAVLELIDSQQQDRYWCPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKFW
 ENLTSPLFGTLSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKICILEIYVVKGSLDQSLKDTLKKPSIEKRFAYWSGYVKS LAVHVAE
 30 TEGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLIATTHADIMHLTDSVVRQLFLDVLDTKALLVPASVNCRLGSMKCTLLIL
 LRQWKRELGSVDEILGPLETEILEGVLOADQQLMEKTKAKVFSAFITVLQMKEMKVSDIPQYSQVLVNCETLQEEVIA
 LFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCVLGLHLAKELCEVDEDEGDSWLQVTRRLPILPTLLTTLEV
 SLRMKQNLHFTTEATLHLLTLARTQQGATAVAGAGITQSIICPLLSVYQLSTNGTAQTPSASRKSLDAPSWPGVYRLS
 MSLMEQLLKTLYRNFLPEALDFVGVHQERTLQCLNAVTVQSLACLEEADHTVGFIQLSNFMKEWHFHLPLQMRDIQ
 35 VNLGYLCQACTSLLHSRKMLQHYLQNKNGDGLPSAVAQRVQRPPSAASAAPSSSKQPAADTEASEQQALHTVQYGLLK
 ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDSEVAPSFGTLLATVNVVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQA
 VGLSTQAEGRTRLKSLMFTMENCYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSSSELSTLLSSLSRYFRRGAPSSPAT
 GVLPSPOGKSTSLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:8)

Example 8. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2

40 A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the W at position 634 of the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by a F, which is shown in bold font.

MIRKSKITSVLSFCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSYYKPPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLQCYLQEDYRGTRDSVKTVLQDERQSQUALILKIADYYEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH
PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQQFEELYKTEAPTWEHGNLMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPS
DLVLTKMFKEQGFGRQTNRLHVDETMDPFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDC
5 LMLTFGDI PHHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIGGTAIQLNVFQYLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
FVLTSLELHTLGNQQDIIDTACEVLADPSLPELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFPHLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEDEGLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVRWEYSYSSWTLF
TCEIEMLLHVVSTADVIQHCQRVKPIIDLHVHVISTDLSIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASCVNCLTV
10 LAARNPAKVFTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQMISSAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGVITIAFLRLITTLVKGQLGST
QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVREIQIGCLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
VINIMIGVDITIDMVMAAQRSDGAEQGQGLLIKTVKLAFSVTNNVIRLKPPSNVVSPLAQALSQHGAGHNNLIIV
LAKYIYHKHDPALPRLAIQLLKRLATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAAIRDAFLTRLQSKI EDMRIKVMILEFLTVAVETQPGI
IELFLNLEVKDGS DGSKEFSLGMWSC LHAVLELIDSQQQDRYWCPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKPKFW
ENLTSPLFGTLPSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIIICLEIYVVVKGSLDQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAYWSGYVKS LAVHVAE
15 TEGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLIATTHADIMHLTDSVVRRLFLDVLDTGKALLVPASVNCLRLGSMKCTLLLLIL
LRQWKRELGSVDEILGPLTEILEGVLDQADQQLMEKTKAKVSAFITVLQMKEMKVSDIPQYSQVLNVCELTQEEVIA
LFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCLGLHLAKELCEVDEDEDGDSWLQVTRRLPILPTLLTTLEV
SLRMKQNLHFTEATLHLLTLARTQQGATAVAGAGITQSICPLLSVYQLSTNGTAQTPSASRKS LDAPS WPGVYRLS
MSLMEQLLKTLYRNFLPEALDFVGVHQERTLQCLNAVTRTVQSLACLEADHTVGFILQLSNFMKEWHFHLPLQMRDIQ
20 VNLGYLCQACTSLLHSRKMQLQHYLQNKNGDGLPSAVAQRVQRPPSAASAAPSSSKQPAADTEASEQALHTVQYGLLK
ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDSEVAPSFQTLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQA
VGLSTQAEGRTRLKSLMFTMENC FYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSSSELSTLLSSLSRYFRRGAPSSPAT
GVLPS PQGKSTSLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:9)

Example 9. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2

A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the N at position 749 of the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by a D, which is shown in bold font.

MIRKSKITSVLSFCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSYYKPPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLQCYLQEDYRGTRDSVKTVLQDERQSQUALILKIADYYEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH
PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQQFEELYKTEAPTWEHGNLMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPS
DLVLTKMFKEQGFGRQTNRLHVDETMDPFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDC
5 LMLTFGDI PHHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIGGTAIQLNVFQYLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
FVLTSLELHTLGNQQDIIDTACEVLADPSLPELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFPHLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEDEGLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVRWEYSYSSWTLF
TCEIEMLLHVVSTADVIQHCQRVKPIIDLHVHVISTDLSIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASCVNCLTV
10 LAARNPAKVFTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQMISSAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGVITIAFLRLITTLVKGQLGST
QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVREIQIGCLILELIHAILDLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
VINIMIGVDITIDMVMAAQRSDGAEQGQGLLIKTVKLAFSVTNNVIRLKPPSNVVSPLAQALSQHGAGHNNLIIV
LAKYIYHKHDPALPRLAIQLLKRLATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAAIRDAFLTRLQSKI EDMRIKVMILEFLTVAVETQPGI
40 IELFLNLEVKDGS DGSKEFSLGMWSC LHAVLELIDSQQQDRYWCPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKPKFW
ENLTSPLFGTLPSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIIICLEIYVVVKGSLDQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAYWSGYVKS LAVHVAE
TEGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLIATTHADIMHLTDSVVRRLFLDVLDTGKALLVPASVNCLRLGSMKCTLLLLIL
LRQWKRELGSVDEILGPLTEILEGVLDQADQQLMEKTKAKVSAFITVLQMKEMKVSDIPQYSQVLNVCELTQEEVIA
45 LFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCLGLHLAKELCEVDEDEDGDSWLQVTRRLPILPTLLTTLEV
SLRMKQNLHFTEATLHLLTLARTQQGATAVAGAGITQSICPLLSVYQLSTNGTAQTPSASRKS LDAPS WPGVYRLS
MSLMEQLLKTLYRNFLPEALDFVGVHQERTLQCLNAVTRTVQSLACLEADHTVGFILQLSNFMKEWHFHLPLQMRDIQ
VNLGYLCQACTSLLHSRKMQLQHYLQNKNGDGLPSAVAQRVQRPPSAASAAPSSSKQPAADTEASEQALHTVQYGLLK
50 ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDSEVAPSFQTLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQA
VGLSTQAEGRTRLKSLMFTMENC FYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSSSELSTLLSSLSRYFRRGAPSSPAT
GVLPS PQGKSTSLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:10)

Example 10. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2

A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the V at position 838 of the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by a M, which is shown in bold font.

MIRKSKITSVL~~S~~FCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSY~~Y~~KPPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLQCYLQEDYRGTRDSVKTVLQDERQSQALILKIADY~~Y~~YEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH
PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQ~~Q~~FEELYKTEAPT~~W~~ETHGNLMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPS
10 DLLVLT~~K~~MFKEQGFGRQTNRHLVDETMDFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDC
LMLTFGDI~~P~~HHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIGGTAIQLNVFQYLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
FVLTSLELHTLGNQ~~Q~~DIIDTACEVLADPSLPELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFP~~H~~LLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVIS~~H~~EDGTLWRRQT~~P~~KLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVRWEYSYSSWTLF
TCEIEMLLHVSTADVIQHCQRVKPIIDL~~V~~HKVI~~S~~TDLSIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASCVNCLTV
15 LAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQ~~M~~ISAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGV~~T~~IAFLRLITTLVKGQLGST
QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMLP~~S~~YHKWRYNSHGVREQIGCLILEL~~I~~HA~~I~~LNLCHE~~T~~DLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
VINIMGIGVDTIDMVMAAQPRSDGAEQGQGLLIKTVK~~L~~AFSVTNNVIRLKPPSNVMSPLEQALSQHGAGNNLI~~A~~V
LAKYIYHKHDPALPRLAIQLLKR~~L~~ATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAAIRDAFLTRLQSKI~~E~~DMRIKVMILEFLTVA~~V~~ETQ~~P~~GL
IELFLNLEVKGSDGSGKEFSL~~T~~GMWSCLHAVLELID~~S~~QQQDRYWCPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLR~~T~~KPKFW
20 ENLTSPLFGT~~L~~SP~~P~~SETSEPSILETCALIMKIICLEIY~~V~~VKGS~~L~~DQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAYWSGYVKS~~L~~AVHVAE
LRFQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGV~~C~~VLGLHLAKELCEVDEDGDSWLQVTRRLPILPTLLTTLEV
SLRMKQNLHFT~~E~~ATLHLLLTARTQQGATAVAGAGITQ~~S~~ICLPLLSVYQLSTNGTAQTPSASRKS~~LDAPSWPGVYRLS
MSLMEQLLKTLRYN~~F~~LPEALDFVG~~V~~HQERTLQCLNAV~~R~~TVQSLACLEADHTVGFILQLSNFMKEWHFHL~~P~~QLMRDIQ
25 VNLGYLCQACTSL~~L~~HSRKM~~L~~QH~~Y~~LQNKNGDGLPSAVAQRVQRPPSAASAAPSSSKQPAADTEASEQ~~Q~~ALHTVQYGLLK
ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTDSEVAPSF~~G~~TLLATV~~N~~VALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQA
VGLSTQAEGR~~T~~RLKSLLMFTMENC~~F~~YLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKORMKQELSSSELSTLLSSLSRYFRGAPSSPAT
GVLPS~~PQ~~G~~KSTSLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:11)~~~~

Example 11. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2

A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the G at position 958 of the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by a T, which is shown in bold font.

MIRKSKITSVL~~S~~FCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSY~~Y~~KPPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
35 GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLQCYLQEDYRGTRDSVKTVLQDERQSQALILKIADY~~Y~~YEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH
PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQ~~Q~~FEELYKTEAPT~~W~~ETHGNLMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPS
DLLVLT~~K~~MFKEQGFGRQTNRHLVDETMDFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDC
LMLTFGDI~~P~~HHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIGGTAIQLNVFQYLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
40 FVLTSLELHTLGNQ~~Q~~DIIDTACEVLADPSLPELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFP~~H~~LLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVIS~~H~~EDGTLWRRQT~~P~~KLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVRWEYSYSSWTLF
TCEIEMLLHVSTADVIQHCQRVKPIIDL~~V~~HKVI~~S~~TDLSIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASCVNCLTV
LAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQ~~M~~ISAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGV~~T~~IAFLRLITTLVKGQLGST
QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMLP~~S~~YHKWRYNSHGVREQIGCLILEL~~I~~HA~~I~~LNLCHE~~T~~DLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
VINIMGIGVDTIDMVMAAQPRSDGAEQGQGLLIKTVK~~L~~AFSVTNNVIRLKPPSNVMSPLEQALSQHGAGNNLI~~A~~V
45 LAKYIYHKHDPALPRLAIQLLKR~~L~~ATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAAIRDAFLTRLQSKI~~E~~DMRIKVMILEFLTVA~~V~~ETQ~~P~~GL
IELFLNLEVKGSDGSGKEFSL~~T~~GMWSCLHAVLELID~~S~~QQQDRYWCPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLR~~T~~KPKFW
ENLTSPLFGT~~L~~SP~~P~~SETSEPSILETCALIMKIICLEIY~~V~~VKGS~~L~~DQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAYWSGYVKS~~L~~AVHVAE

TEGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLIATTHADIMHLTDSVVRRLFLDVLDTGKALLVPASVNCRLRLGSMKCTLLLLIL
 LRQWKRELGSVDEILGPLTEILEGVLOADQQLMEKTKAKVFSAFITVLQMKEMKVSDIPQYSQVLNVCETLQEEVIA
 LFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCLGLHLAKELCEVDEDGDSWLQVTRRLPILPTLLTTLEV
 SLRMKQNLHFTTEATLHLLTLARTQQGATAVAGAGITQSIICLPLLSVYQLSTNGTAQTPSASRKSLDAPSWPGVYRLS
 MSLMEQLLKTLYNLFPEALDFVGHVQERTLQCLNAVTRTVQSLACLEEADHTVGFILQLSNFMKEWHFHLPLQMRDIQ
 VNLGYLCQACTSLLSHRKMLQHYLQNKNGDGLPSAVAQRVORPPSAASAAPSSSKQPAADTEASEQQALHTVQYGLLK
 ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDSEVAPSGTLLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQA
 VGLSTQAEGRTRLKSLMFTMENC FYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSSSELSTLLSSLSRYFRRGAPSSPAT
 GVLPSPGKSTSLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:12)

Example 12. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2

A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the K at position 1084 of the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by a R, which is shown in bold font.

MIRKSKITSVLSEFCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSYYKPPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
 GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLLQCYLQEDYRGTRDSVKTIVLQDERQSQALILKIADY YEEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH
 PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQQFEELYKTEAPTWEHGNLMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPS
 DLLVLTKMFKEQGFGSRQTNRLHVDETMDPFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDC
 LMLTFGDI PHHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIGGTAIQLNVFYQLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
 FVLTSLELHTLGNQODIIDTACEVLADPSPLELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFPHLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
 YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEGTLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVWRWEYSYSSWTLF
 TCEIEMLLHVVSTADVIOHCQRVKPIIDL VHKVISTDLSTIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASCVNCLTV
 LAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQMISSAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSQPGGEYGVTFIAFLRLITTLVKGLGST
 QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVREIQICLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
 VINIMIGVDITDMVMAAQRSDGAEQGQGGQLLKTVKLAFSVTNVIRLKPPSNVVS PLEQALSQHGAHGNLITAV
 LAKYIYHKHDPALPRLAIQLLKRLATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAAI RDAFLTRLQSKIEDMRKVMILEFTLVAVETQPG
 IELFLNLEVKDGS DGSKEPSLGMWSC LHAVLELIDSQQQDRYWC PPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKPFW
 ENLTSPLFGTLPSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIIICLEIYVVVKGSLDQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAYWSGYVRS LAVHVAE
 TEGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLIATTHADIMHLTDSVVRRLFLDVLDTGKALLVPASVNCRLRLGSMKCTLLLLIL
 LRQWKRELGSVDEILGPLTEILEGVLOADQQLMEKTKAKVFSAFITVLQMKEMKVSDIPQYSQVLNVCETLQEEVIA
 LFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCLGLHLAKELCEVDEDGDSWLQVTRRLPILPTLLTTLEV
 SLRMKQNLHFTTEATLHLLTLARTQQGATAVAGAGITQSIICLPLLSVYQLSTNGTAQTPSASRKSLDAPSWPGVYRLS
 MSLMEQLLKTLYNLFPEALDFVGHVQERTLQCLNAVTRTVQSLACLEEADHTVGFILQLSNFMKEWHFHLPLQMRDIQ
 VNLGYLCQACTSLLSHRKMLQHYLQNKNGDGLPSAVAQRVORPPSAASAAPSSSKQPAADTEASEQQALHTVQYGLLK
 ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDSEVAPSGTLLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQA
 VGLSTQAEGRTRLKSLMFTMENC FYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSSSELSTLLSSLSRYFRRGAPSSPAT
 GVLPSPGKSTSLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:13)

Example 13. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2

A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the A at position 1152 of the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by a S, which is shown in bold font.

MIRKSKITSVL SFCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSYYPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLQCYLQEDYRGTRDSVKTVLQDERQSQALILKIADYIYEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH
PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQQFEELYKTEAPT WETHGNLMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPS
5 DLLVLTKMFKEQGFGSRQTNRLHVDETMDPFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDC
LMLTFGDI PHHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIGGTAIQLNVFQYLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
FVLTSLELHTLGNQQDIIDTACEVLADPSLPELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFPHLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEGTLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVRWEYSYSSWTLF
TCEIEMLLHVSTADVIQHCQRVKPIIDL VHKVISTDLSIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASCVNCLTV
10 LAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQMSAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGVTTIAFLRLITTLVKGQLGST
QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVRQIGCLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
VINIMIGVDTIDMVMAAQPRSDGAEGQGGQQLIKTVKLAFSVTNNVIRLKPPSNVVSPLAQALSQHGAGHNNLIAV
LAKYIYKHDPALPRLAIQLLKRLATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAAIRDAFLTRLQSKI EDMRIKVMILEFLTAVAVETQPGI
IELFLNLEVKGSDGSGKEFSLGMWSCLHAVLELIDSQQDQRYWCPPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKPFW
15 ENLTSPLFGTLPSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIIICLEIYVVVKGSLDQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAVWSGYVKS LAVHVAE
TEGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLIATTHADIMHLTDSVVRRLQFLDVLDTGKALLVPSSVNCRLRLGSMKCTLLLLIL
LRQWKRELGSVDEILGPLETEILEGVLAQDQQLMEKTKAKVFSAFITVLQMKEMKVSDIPQYSQVLNVCE TLQEEVIA
LFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCLGLHLAKELCEVDEDEDGDSWLQVTRRLPIPLTLLTTLEV
20 SLRMKQNLHFTFTEATLHLLLTARTQQGATAVAGAGITQSIICLPLLSVYQLSTNGTAQTPSASRKS LDAPS WPGVYRLS
MSLMEQLLKT LRYNFLPEALDFVG VHQERTLQCLNAVRTVQSLACLEADHTVGFILQLSNFMKEWHFHL PQLMRDIQ
VNLGYLCQACTSLLHSRKMQLQHYLQNKNGDGLPSAVAQRVQRPPSAASAAPSSSKQPAADTEASEQQALHTVQYGLLK
ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDSEVAPSF GTLLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQA
VGLSTQAEGRTRLKSLMFTMENC FYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSSSELSTLLSSLSRYFRFGAPSSPAT
GVLPSPOGKSTSLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:14)

Example 14. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2

A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the I at position 1247 of the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by a V, which is shown in bold font.

MIRKSKITSVL SFCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSYYPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLQCYLQEDYRGTRDSVKTVLQDERQSQALILKIADYIYEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH
PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQQFEELYKTEAPT WETHGNLMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPS
30 DLLVLTKMFKEQGFGSRQTNRLHVDETMDPFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDC
LMLTFGDI PHHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIGGTAIQLNVFQYLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
FVLTSLELHTLGNQQDIIDTACEVLADPSLPELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFPHLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
35 YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEGTLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVRWEYSYSSWTLF
TCEIEMLLHVSTADVIQHCQRVKPIIDL VHKVISTDLSIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASCVNCLTV
LAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQMSAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGVTTIAFLRLITTLVKGQLGST
QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVRQIGCLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
40 VINIMIGVDTIDMVMAAQPRSDGAEGQGGQQLIKTVKLAFSVTNNVIRLKPPSNVVSPLAQALSQHGAGHNNLIAV
LAKYIYKHDPALPRLAIQLLKRLATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAAIRDAFLTRLQSKI EDMRIKVMILEFLTAVAVETQPGI
IELFLNLEVKGSDGSGKEFSLGMWSCLHAVLELIDSQQDQRYWCPPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKPFW
ENLTSPLFGTLPSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIIICLEIYVVVKGSLDQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAVWSGYVKS LAVHVAE
45 TEGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLIATTHADIMHLTDSVVRRLQFLDVLDTGKALLVPSSVNCRLRLGSMKCTLLLLIL
LRQWKRELGSVDEILGPLETEILEGVLAQDQQLMEKTKAKVFSAFITVLQMKEMKVSDIPQYSQVLNVCE TLQEEVVA
LFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCLGLHLAKELCEVDEDEDGDSWLQVTRRLPIPLTLLTTLEV
SLRMKQNLHFTFTEATLHLLLTARTQQGATAVAGAGITQSIICLPLLSVYQLSTNGTAQTPSASRKS LDAPS WPGVYRLS
MSLMEQLLKT LRYNFLPEALDFVG VHQERTLQCLNAVRTVQSLACLEADHTVGFILQLSNFMKEWHFHL PQLMRDIQ
50 VNLGYLCQACTSLLHSRKMQLQHYLQNKNGDGLPSAVAQRVQRPPSAASAAPSSSKQPAADTEASEQQALHTVQYGLLK
ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDSEVAPSF GTLLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQA
VGLSTQAEGRTRLKSLMFTMENC FYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSSSELSTLLSSLSRYFRFGAPSSPAT
GVLPSPOGKSTSLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:15)

Example 15. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2

A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the K at position 1331 of the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by a R, which is shown in bold font.

MIRKSKITSVLSPFCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSYYKPPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLQCYLQEDYRGTRDSVKTVLQDERQSQALILKIADYEEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH
PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQQFEELYKTEAPTWEHGNLMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPS
10 DLLVLTGMFKEQGFSGSRQTNRLHVDETMDPFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDC
LMLTFGDIPHHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIGGTAIQLNVFQYLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
FVLTSLELHTLGNQQDIIDTACEVLADPSLPELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFPHLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEDGTLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVRWEYSYSSWTLF
TCEIEMLLHVSTADVIOHCQRVKPIIDLHVHVISTDLSIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASCVNCLTV
15 LAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQMSIAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGVITIAFLRLITTLVKGQLGST
QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVREIQICLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
VINIMGIGVDTIDMVMAAQPRSDGAEGQGQGLLKTVKLAFSVTNNVIRLKPPSNVVSPLQALSQHGAGHNNLIAV
LAKYIYHKHPALPRLAIQLLKRLATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAAIRDAFLTRLQSKI EDMRIKVMILEFLTVAVETQPGI
IELFLNLEVKDGSQSGKEFSLGMWSCILHAVLELIDSQQDRYWCPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKPFW
20 ENLTSPLFGTSLPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIIICLEIYYVVKGSLDQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAYWSGYVKS LAVHVAE
TEGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLIATTHADIMHLDTSVVRRLFLDVLDTKALLVPSSVNCRLGSMKCTLLLLIL
LRQWKRELGSVDEILGPLTEILEGLVQADQQLMEKTKAKVFSAFITVLQMKEMKVSDIPQYSQVLNVCELTQEEVIA
LFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCLGLHLAKELCEVEDGDSWLQVTRRLPILPTLLTTLEV
25 SLRMRQNLHFTFETLHLLTLARTQQGATAVAGAGITQISICLPLLSVYQLSTNGTAQTPSASRSLDAPSWPGVYRLS
MSLMEQLLKTLYRNFLPEALDFVGHVHQTERTLQCLNAVTVQSLACLEADHTVGFILQLSNFMKEWHFHLPLQLMRDIQ
VNLGYLCQACTSLLHRSKMLQHYLQNKNGDGLPSAVAQVRQRPSSAASAPSSSKQPAADTEASEQQALHTVQYGLLK
ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDSEVAPSGFTLLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQA
VGLSTQAEGRTRLKSLMFTMCNCFYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSSSELSTLLSSLSRYFRRGAPSSPAT
30 GVLPSPOGKSTSLSKASPESQEPILQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:16)

Example 16. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2

A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the C at position 1449 of the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by a Y, which is shown in bold font.

MIRKSKITSVLSPFCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSYYKPPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLQCYLQEDYRGTRDSVKTVLQDERQSQALILKIADYEEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH
PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQQFEELYKTEAPTWEHGNLMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPS
40 DLLVLTGMFKEQGFSGSRQTNRLHVDETMDPFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDC
LMLTFGDIPHHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIGGTAIQLNVFQYLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
FVLTSLELHTLGNQQDIIDTACEVLADPSLPELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFPHLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEDGTLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVRWEYSYSSWTLF
TCEIEMLLHVSTADVIOHCQRVKPIIDLHVHVISTDLSIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASCVNCLTV
15 LAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQMSIAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGVITIAFLRLITTLVKGQLGST
QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVREIQICLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
VINIMGIGVDTIDMVMAAQPRSDGAEGQGQGLLKTVKLAFSVTNNVIRLKPPSNVVSPLQALSQHGAGHNNLIAV
LAKYIYHKHPALPRLAIQLLKRLATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAAIRDAFLTRLQSKI EDMRIKVMILEFLTVAVETQPGI
45

IELFLNLEVKDGSKGESFSLGMWSCLHAVLELIDSQQQDRYWCPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKPKFW
 ENLTSPLFGTLPSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIIICLEIYYVVKGSGLDQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAWWSGYVKSIAVHVAE
 TEGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLIATTHADIMHLTDSVVRQLFLDVLDTGKALLVPSSVNCRLRLGSMKCTLLLLIL
 LRQWKRELGSVDEILGPLTEILEGVLQADQQLMEKTKAKVFSAFITVLQMKEMKVS DIPQYSQVLVNCETLQEEVIA
 LFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCLGLHLAKELCEVDEDEGDSWLQVTRRLPILPTLLTTLEV
 SLRMKQNLHFTTEATLHLLLTARTQQGATAVAGAGITQSICLPLLSVYQLSTNGTAQTSPASRKS LDAPS WPGVYRLS
 MSLMEQLLKTLYNLFPEALDFVGVHQERTLQCLNAVTVQSLAYLEADHTVGFILQLSNFMKEWHFHLPLQLMRDIQ
 VNLGYLCQACTSLLHSRKMQLQHYLQNKNGDGLPSAVAQRVQRPPSAASAAPSSSSKQPAADTEASEQQALHTVQYGLLK
 ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDSEVAPSFGTLLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQA
 VGLSTQAEGRTRLKSLMFTMENC FYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSELSTLLSSLSRYFRRGAPSSPAT
 GVLPSQKGKSTSLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:17)

Example 17. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2

A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid

15 sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the D at position 1542
 of the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by a Q, which is shown in bold
 font.

MIRSKITSVLSPCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSYYKPPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
 GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLLQCYLQEDYRGTDRSDVKTVLQDERQSQALILKIADYIYEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH
 PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQQFEELYKTEAPTWETHGNLMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLEIIFLYAYFEMAPS
 DLLVLTKMFKEQGFGSRQTNRLVDETMDPFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDC
 LMLTFGDI PHHPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSVVRKIGGTAIQLNVFQYLTLLQLSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
 FVLTSLELHTLGNQDDI IDTACEVLADPSLPFLFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFPHLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
 YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEDEGLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRI PQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVWRWEYSYSSWTLF
 TCEIEMLLHVSTADVIQHCQRVKPI IDLVHVKVISTDL SIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASCVNCLTV
 LAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQMSIAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGVTFIAFLRLITTLVKQGLGST
 QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMLP SYHKWRYNSHGVREQIGCLILEL IHA ILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
 VINIMGIGVDITDMVMAAQP RSDGAEGQGGQQLLIKTVKLAFSVTNNVIRLKPSPNVVSPLEQALSQHAHGNNLIAV
 LAKIYIYHKHPALPRLAIQLLKR LATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAAIRDAFLTRLQSKI EDMRIKVMILEFLTAVAVETQPGI
 30 IELFLNLEVKDGSKGESFSLGMWSCLHAVLELIDSQQQDRYWCPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKPKFW
 ENLTSPLFGTLPSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIIICLEIYYVVKGSGLDQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAWWSGYVKSIAVHVAE
 TEGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLIATTHADIMHLTDSVVRQLFLDVLDTGKALLVPSSVNCRLRLGSMKCTLLLLIL
 LRQWKRELGSVDEILGPLTEILEGVLQADQQLMEKTKAKVFSAFITVLQMKEMKVS DIPQYSQVLVNCETLQEEVIA
 LFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCLGLHLAKELCEVDEDEGDSWLQVTRRLPILPTLLTTLEV
 35 SLRMKQNLHFTTEATLHLLLTARTQQGATAVAGAGITQSICLPLLSVYQLSTNGTAQTSPASRKS LDAPS WPGVYRLS
 MSLMEQLLKTLYNLFPEALDFVGVHQERTLQCLNAVTVQSLACLEEDHTVGFILQLSNFMKEWHFHLPLQLMRDIQ
 VNLGYLCQACTSLLHSRKMQLQHYLQNKNGDGLPSAVAQRVQRPPSAASAAPSSSSKQPAAQTEASEQQALHTVQYGLLK
 ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDSEVAPSFGTLLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQA
 VGLSTQAEGRTRLKSLMFTMENC FYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSELSTLLSSLSRYFRRGAPSSPAT
 40 GVLPSQKGKSTSLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:18)

Example 18. A variant of the human BFLP0169 polypeptide sequence shown in Table 2

A polypeptide sequence varying by one amino acid from the BFLP0169 amino acid

45 sequence presented in Table 2 is shown below. For the sequence shown, the F at position 1706
 of the BFLP0169 sequence shown in Table 2 has been replaced by a H, which is shown in bold
 font.

MIRKSKITSVLSPCRSSRELWTILLGRSALRELSQIEAELNKHWRRLLEGLSYYKPPSPSSAEKVKANKDVASPLKEL
 GLRISKFLGLDEEQSVQLLQCYLQEDYRGTRDSVKTVLQDERQSALILKIADYYYEERTCILRCVLHLLTYFQDERH
 PYRVEYADCVDKLEKELVSKYRQQFEELYKTEAPTWETHGNLMTERQVSRWFVQCLREQSMLLEIIFLYYAYFEMAPS
 5 DLLVLTSMFKEQGFSGRQTNRLHVDETMDPFVDRIGYFSALILVEGMDIESLHKCALDDRRELHQFAQDGLICQDMDC
 LMLTFGDI PHHAPVLLAWALLRHTLNPEETSSSVVRKIGGTAIQLNVFQYLTRLLQSLASGGNDCTTSTACMCVYGLLS
 FVLTSLELHTLGNQQDIIDTACEVLADPSLPELFWGTEPTSGLGIILDSVCGMFPHLLSPLLQLLRALVSGKSTAKKV
 YSFLDKMSFYNELYKHKPHDVISHEDGTLWRRQTPKLLYPLGGQTNLRIPQGTVGQVMLDDRAYLVRWEYSYSSWTLF
 TCEIEMLLHVSTADVIQHCQRVKPIIDLVHKVISTDLSIADCLLPITSRIYMLLQRLTTVISPPVDVIASCVNCLTV
 10 LAARNPAKVWTDLRHTGFLPFVAHPVSSLSQMISAEGMNAGGYGNLLMNSEQPQGEYGVTFIAFLRLITTLVKQQLGST
 QSQGLVPCVMFVLKEMPLSYHKWRYNSHGVREQIGCLILELIHAILNLCHETDLHSSHTPSLQFLCICSLAYTEAGQT
 VINIMGIGVDTIDMVMAAQPRSDGAEGQGGQQLLIKTVKLAFSVTNNVIRLKPPSNVVSPLAQALSQHGAGHNNLIIV
 LAKYIYHKHDPALPRLAIQLKRLATVAPMSVYACLGNDAAAIRDAFLTRLQSKI EDMRIKVMILEFTVAVETQPGI
 IELFLNLEVKGSDGSKEFSLGMWSCLHAVLELIDSQQQDRYWCPLLHRAAIAFLHALWQDRRDSAMLVLRTPKPFW
 15 ENLTSPLFGTLPSPSETSEPSILETCALIMKIICLEIYVVKGSLDQSLKDTLKKFSIEKRFAWWSGYVKS LAVHVAE
 TEGSSCTSLLEYQMLVSAWRMLLI IATTHADIMHLTDSVVRRLFLDVLDTGKALLVPSSVNCRLRSGMKCTLLIL
 LRQWKRELGSVDEILGPLTEILEGLVQADQQLMEKTKAKVPSAFITVLQMKEMKVS DIPQYSQVLVNCETLQEEVIA
 LFDQTRHSLALGSATEDKDSMETDDCSRSRHRDQRDGVCLGLHLAKELCEVDEDEGDSWLQVTRRLPILPTLLTTLEV
 SLRMKQNLHFTTEATLHLLLTARTQQGATAVAGAGITQICLPLLSVYQLSTNGTAQTPSASRSLDAPSWPGVYRLS
 20 MSLMEQLLKTLYNLFPEALDFVGVOERTLQCLNAVTVQSLACLEADHTVGFIQLSNFMKEWHFHLPLMRDIQ
 VNLGYLCQACTSLLHSRKMLOHYLQNKNGDGLPSAVAQRVQRPPSAASAAPSSSKQPAQTEASEQQALHTVQYGLLK
 ILSKTLAALRHFTPDVCQILLDQSLDLAEYNFLFALSFTTPTFDSEVAPSGFTLLATVNVALNMLGELDKKKEPLTQA
 VGLSTQAEGRTRLKSLLMFTMENC FYLLISQAMRYLRDPAVHPRDKQRMKQELSSSELSTLLSSLSRYHRRGAPSSPAT
 GVLSPSPQGKSTSLSKASPESQEPLIQLVQAFVRHMQR (SEQ ID NO:19)

25

OTHER EMBODIMENTS

While the invention has been described in conjunction with the detailed description thereof, the foregoing description is intended to illustrate and not limit the scope of the invention, which is defined by the scope of the appended claims. Other aspects, advantages, and

5 modifications are within the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
2. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds rapamycin.
3. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide at least 98% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
4. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said molecule hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid sequence complementary to a nucleic acid molecule comprising nucleotides 1-1811 of SEQ ID NO:1.
5. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
6. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises nucleotides 1-1811 of SEQ ID NO:1.
7. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
8. A cell including the vector of claim 7.
9. A substantially purified polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

10. The polypeptide of claim 9, wherein said polypeptide binds rapamycin.
11. The polypeptide of claim 9, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide is at least 98% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
12. The polypeptide of claim 9, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide is at least 99% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
13. The polypeptide of claim 9, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
14. The polypeptide of claim 9, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
15. A fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of claim 9 operably linked to a non-BFLP0169 polypeptide.
16. The fusion polypeptide of claim 9, wherein said non-BFLP0169 polypeptide comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of an Fc region of an immunoglobulin molecules or a FLAG epitope, a HIS tag, and a MYC tag.
17. A polypeptide comprising a rapamycin-binding domain of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
18. A polypeptide at least 1740 amino acids in length comprising at least five contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, provided that said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence other than SEQ ID NO:26.

19. The polypeptide of claim 18, wherein said polypeptide comprises a rapamycin-binding domain.
20. A polypeptide comprising at least five contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:20.
21. The polypeptide of claim 20, wherein said polypeptide comprises a rapamycin-binding domain.
22. The polypeptide of claim 20, wherein said polypeptide is at least 50 amino acids in length.
23. The polypeptide of claim 20, wherein said polypeptide is at least 100 amino acids in length.
24. The polypeptide of claim 20, wherein said polypeptide is at least 220 amino acids in length.
25. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
26. A fusion polypeptide comprising a rapamycin-binding domain of a BFLP0169 polypeptide operably linked to a non-BFLP0169 polypeptide.
27. The fusion polypeptide of claim 26, wherein said non-BFLP0169 polypeptide comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of an Fc region of an immunoglobulin molecules or a FLAG epitope, a HIS tag, and a MYC tag.
28. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the fusion polypeptide of claim 26 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

29. An antibody that binds selectively to the polypeptide of claim 9.
30. The antibody of claim 29, wherein said antibody inhibits binding of a BFLP0169 polypeptide to rapamycin.
31. The antibody of claim 29, wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.
32. The antibody of claim 29, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
33. The monoclonal antibody of claim 32, wherein said monoclonal antibody is selected from the group consisting of a murine monoclonal antibody, and a humanized monoclonal antibody.
34. A method of producing a BFLP0169 polypeptide, said method comprising culturing a cell including the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 under conditions allowing for expression of a BFLP0169 polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid molecule.
35. A method of detecting the presence of a BFLP0169 nucleic acid molecule in a biological sample, the method comprising:
contacting the sample with a nucleic acid probe that binds specifically to a BFLP0169 nucleic acid; and
identifying the bound probe, if present,
thereby detecting the presence of BFLP0169 nucleic acid molecule in said sample.
36. A method of detecting the presence of a BFLP0169 polypeptide in a sample, the method comprising:
contacting the sample with a compound that selectively binds to said polypeptide under conditions allowing for formation of a complex between said polypeptide and said compound; and

detecting said complex, if present, thereby identifying said polypeptide in said sample.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein said compound is rapamycin.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein said compound is an anti-BFLP0169 antibody.

39. A method for determining the presence of or predisposition to lupus nephritis in a subject, the method comprising:

a) measuring the amount of a BFLP0169 nucleic acid molecule in a sample from said subject; and

b) comparing the amount of said nucleic acid in step to the amount of the nucleic acid present in a control sample from a subject without lupus nephritis,

wherein an increase in the level of said BLP0169 nucleic acid in step (a) as compared to the level of the nucleic acid in the control sample indicates the presence of or predisposition to lupus nephritis in said subject.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein said subject is a human.

41. A method for determining the presence of or predisposition to lupus nephritis in a subject, the method comprising:

a) measuring the amount of a BFLP0169 polypeptide in a sample from said subject; and

b) comparing the amount of said polypeptide to the amount of the nucleic acid present in a control sample from a subject without lupus nephritis,

wherein an increase in the level of said BLP0169 polypeptide as compared to the level of the polypeptide in the control sample indicates the presence of or predisposition to lupus nephritis in said subject.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein said subject is a human.
43. A method for screening for a therapeutic agent for treating an autoimmune disorder, the method comprising:
contacting a test compound with a BFLP0169 polypeptide; and
determining if said test compound binds to said BFLP0169 polypeptide,
wherein binding of said test compound to said polypeptide indicates the test compound is a therapeutic agent for an autoimmune disorder.
44. The method of claim 43, wherein said immune disorder is an autoimmune disorder.
45. The method of claim 44, wherein said autoimmune disorder is lupus.
46. The method of claim 44, wherein said autoimmune disorder is lupus nephritis.
47. The method of claim 43, wherein said BFLP0169 is provided in a cell-free extract.
48. The method of claim 43, wherein said BFLP1069 is provided in a cell.
49. A method of treating lupus nephritis in a subject, the method comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of an agent that inhibits activity of a BFLP0169 polypeptide in said subject
50. The method of claim 49, wherein said subject is a human.
51. The method of claim 49, wherein said agent is an anti-BFLP0169 antibody.

52. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an agent that inhibits activity of a BFLP0169 polypeptide in a subject and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

53. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 52, wherein said agent is an anti-BFLP0169 antibody.

COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR TREATING LUPUS NEPHRITIS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides novel isolated BFLP0169 polynucleotides and polypeptides encoded by the BFLP0169 polynucleotides. Also provided are the antibodies that immunospecifically bind to a BFLP0169 polypeptide or any derivative (including fusion derivative), variant, mutant or fragment of the BFLP0169 polypeptide, polynucleotide or antibody. The invention additionally provides methods in which the BFLP0169 polypeptide, polynucleotide and antibody are utilized in the detection and treatment of a broad range of pathological states, as well as to other uses.

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Figure 1

Gene Expression Levels in (NZB x NZW)F1 Kidneys of Mouse Ortholog of Human Gene BFLP0169 and the Effect of Therapy on Gene Expression Levels

